

PM directs faster rollout of Dhaman hospitals projects Page 2

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KUWAIT'S WARNING TO IRAN: SOVEREIGNTY IS NO TARGET

Amir condoles Italy's leaders over deaths in Iran drone attack horror

2 Italians succumb to injuries; Kuwaiti, Pakistani remain hospitalized

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (Agencies): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Thursday two cables of condolences to President Sergio Mattarella of the friendly Italian Republic and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni of the Italian Republic, expressing his sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy over the deaths of two Italian citizens resulting from the heinous Iranian aggression that targeted the State of Kuwait earlier in the day, wishing their families patience and solace.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah dispatched two condolence cables to President Mattarella and Prime Minister Meloni, mourning the two Italian victims of the attack and offering his heartfelt sympathy to their families.

In the same vein, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent two cables of condolences to the Italian president and prime minister, expressing his deep sorrow over the loss and wishing the bereaved families patience and solace.

The two Italian nationals injured in an attack on a vital site in Kuwait have died, Ministry of Defense Spokesperson Staff Colonel Saud Al-Atwan announced.

In a statement, Al-Atwan said their deaths resulted from what he described as the heinous Iranian aggression against the country.

Continued on Page 6

Trash woes persist

QR codes may tidy up Kuwait's 'waste mess'

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The Environment Committee at the Municipal Council discussed the operational challenges in the implementation of regulations on municipal solid waste management and public cleanliness during its second workshop for the fourth legislative term, with the theme, "Cleanliness of Cities, Suburbs and Residential Areas: Challenges in Implementing the Regulations for Municipal Solid Waste Management and Public Cleanliness."



Al-Farsi

Representatives of the Kuwait Municipality's executive branch and several government entities attended the workshop, during which they looked into ways of intensifying oversight, addressing violations and raising overall cleanliness standards in cities, suburbs and residential areas.

Committee Chairperson Alia Al-Farsi stressed that public cleanliness goes beyond the provision of waste containers, because it is an integrated system that requires clear legislation, effective institutional management, well-structured contracts, continuous monitoring and responsible community participation.

She indicated that the past four years witnessed considerable legislative and regulatory efforts in this field, specifically the preparation and development of the relevant regulations through the coordinated efforts of the Environment Committee and Legal and Financial Committee.

Continued on Page 6



PM Diwan photo

HH the PM receives Airbus International President Wouter van Wersch.

Kuwait, Airbus explore aviation and space ties

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received visiting Airbus International President Wouter van Wersch and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace on Thursday.

The meeting discussed following up on joint cooperation between the State of Kuwait and Airbus in the sectors of aviation, air navigation, and space technology, as well as capitalizing on the company's advanced expertise to support the country's plans to advance these vital sectors in line with international standards.

Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Acting Chief of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah were present at the meeting.

Kuwait's winter chill takes weekend break

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): The Meteorological Department stated that Kuwait was expected to experience warm weather during the day and mild to cool conditions at night over the weekend.

Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Director of the Meteorological Department Dhirar Al-Ali explained that the country will be affected by an extended high-pressure system accompanied by a warm air mass. Winds are expected to be variable to northwesterly, generally light to moderate in speed.

On Friday, daytime weather is expected to be warm with partly cloudy skies. Northwesterly winds will range from 10 to 35 kilometers per hour, while maximum temperatures are forecast to reach between 26 and 28 degrees Celsius. Sea conditions will be light to moderate, with waves ranging from 2 to 5 feet.

Friday night will bring mild to cool conditions with partly cloudy skies. Winds will be northwesterly to variable, with speeds of 8 to 28 kilometers per hour. Minimum temperatures are expected to range between 10 and 12 degrees Celsius, while sea waves will reach between 1 and 3 feet.

Saturday is also expected to be warm during the day, with scattered clouds and light to moderate northwesterly to variable winds blowing at speeds of 8 to 28 kilometers per hour. Maximum temperatures will range between 26 and 28 degrees Celsius, with sea waves measuring 1 to 3 feet.

Saturday night will be mild to cool, with partly cloudy skies. Winds will be northwesterly to variable, ranging from 6 to 24 kilometers per hour. Minimum temperatures are forecast to range between 11 and 13 degrees Celsius, while sea conditions will remain slight, with waves reaching 1 to 2 feet.

Other Voices

From a piece of fruit to outer space

By Abdulaziz Mohammed Al-Anjeri

By 1981, when Abdlatif Al-Hamad became Kuwait's finance and planning minister, he had spent nearly two decades running Kuwait's development fund, financing projects across Africa and Asia. He later led the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for 35 years.

When Al-Hamad was a boy in Kuwait, fruit was so scarce that the sight of a neighbor carrying some home made people assume someone in the family was ill. Within his lifetime, fruit became everyday fare.



Al-Anjeri

He recalled this in the fifth episode of The Arabs: A Living History, a documentary series supported by the late Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. He warned that such abundance might not last. It takes candor to urge restraint in times of plenty.

I thought of his warning when the Kuwait National Space Research Center opened at Sabah Al-Salem University City. Here is a chance to turn some of today's wealth into knowledge that will outlast it.

In that same interview, Al-Hamad turned to America's space program. "Were all the scientists Americans?" he asked. He was sure many came from other countries, Arabs among them. He credited America with financing and sustaining the effort. "But the glory is really for mankind."

The camera cuts to a Harvard laboratory. Dr. Kazem Behbehani, a Kuwaiti researcher, spent half the year in Boston and half at Kuwait University. Abdelhamid Sabra, the Harvard historian who wrote the episode, likens the Arab, Chinese and Latin American scientists gathered there to scholars once drawn to Baghdad or Cairo.

America's laws governing immigration and citizenship had changed within Al-Hamad's lifetime. In 1946, Congress lifted a racial barrier to citizenship for Indian and Filipino immigrants. A 1965 immigration law gave preference to applicants with exceptional ability in science or the arts. In 1994, the Conrad program gave states a way to retain foreign doctors trained in America. A state could request a waiver of the requirement to return home for two years if a doctor agreed to practice for at least three years in an underserved area.

Continued on Page 6

KNG chief welcomes Italian commander

Kuwait, Italy expand security coordination

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): National Guard Chief Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah affirmed Kuwait's commitment to strengthening cooperation with Italy.

This came during his reception of Commander General of the Italian Carabinieri Lieutenant General Salvatore Luongo, accompanied by National Guard Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas and Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Lorenzo Morini, during an official visit to the country, the National Guard said in a statement Thursday.

Sheikh Mubarak welcomed Luongo and the accompanying delegation, stressing the strong ties between Kuwait and Italy and the commitment to expanding cooperation, coordination and expertise exchange in military and security fields, in line with the country's political leadership directives.



National Guard photo

National Guard Chief Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with Italian Carabinieri Lieutenant General Salvatore Luongo, accompanied by National Guard Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas and Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Lorenzo Morini.

126 transplants through November

Kuwait steps up kidney care

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed Thursday Kuwait's commitment to developing integrated kidney care, particularly through transplantation and dialysis services, stressing the importance of incorporating kidney health into primary healthcare to prevent disease progression and complications.

Speaking at the opening of a three-day scientific program on kidney diseases attended by International Society of Nephrology President Dr. Marcelo Tonelli, heads of Arab kidney societies and specialists from Kuwait and abroad, Al-Awadhi highlighted Kuwait's achievements in kidney transplantation, dialysis and expanding healthcare services.

He said Kuwait's kidney transplant program, launched in 1979, has evolved through infrastructure development and enhanced medical expertise where the Kuwait Center for Kidney Diseases and Transplantation opened in the Sabah Medical Area in 2024 with 80 beds, while 149 transplants were performed that year with a success rate exceeding 96 percent.

The program recorded 129 transplants in 2025 and 126 through November 2026, including six pediatric cases, among them children weighing less than 15 kilograms.

Furthermore, a national paired kidney exchange program was also introduced to expand compatibility opportunities for patients, he added.

Al-Awadhi said around 2,600 patients in Kuwait receive dialysis, 88 percent through hemodialysis and 12 percent through peritoneal dialysis.

He noted that the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Dialysis Center in Ahmadi Health District opened last August following a donation from the heirs of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Continued on Page 6



2 Gatherings are schools: Bahrain envoy hosts diwaniya



7 NBK organizes site visit with Capital Gov to Sharq Area Development Project

Ukrainian ambassador calls for solidarity against global hunger

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Ukrainian Ambassador to Kuwait Maksym Subkh has called for the commemoration of the 93rd anniversary of the victims of the 'Holodomor' -- the devastating famine that struck Ukraine from 1932 to 1933 and claimed millions of lives.



Subkh

In a press statement, Ambassador Subkh indicated that this tragedy conveys a universal humanitarian message, underscoring the urgent need to protect civilians from hunger and ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches those most in need.

He announced that Ukrainians will mark the anniversary on Nov 28, with a minute of silence at 4:00 pm Kyiv time (5:00 pm Kuwait time), followed by the lighting of candles in their windows in remembrance of the victims.

He said the famine was due to certain policies pursued by the Soviet regime, including the confiscation of grain and food supplies, imposition of blockade on entire villages and regions, and restrictions preventing residents from leaving their communities in search of food.

He added that Ukraine adopted a legislation in 2006, officially recognizing the 'Holodomo'r as genocide against the Ukrainian people.

He asserted that Ukraine's historical experience of famine reinforced its understanding of the importance of food security and solidarity with countries and communities experiencing hunger.

Continued on Page 6

Newswatch

Kuwait mourns 30 Egypt fire victims

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Kuwait's solidarity with Egypt following a fire on the Ring Road in the Warraq area of Giza Governorate, which left several people dead and others injured.

In a statement Thursday, the Ministry extended Kuwait's sincere condolences to Egypt's leadership, government and people, as well as the families of the victims, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

The Egyptian Ministry of Health announced Wednesday that at least 30 people were killed and 15 others injured in a massive fire sparked by the overturning of a tanker truck carrying petroleum products on the Ring Road in the Warraq area of Giza Governorate.

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:58	Asr	14:30
Sunrise	06:21	Maghrib	16:50
Zohr	11:36	Isha	18:13

KISR technology boosts yields, saves 40% water

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) said Thursday it developed a technology to improve sandy soil properties and increase vegetable crop yields using an organic soil amendment while reducing irrigation water use by 40 percent compared with full irrigation.

KISR Research Scientist at the Environment and Life Sciences Research Center Dr. Hanaa Burezaq told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the project aims to improve soil properties and crop production under deficit irrigation conditions, supporting sustainable agriculture and food security in Kuwait.

The project was implemented at Al-Enmaa farm in Wafra to address two major challenges facing local agriculture: the low water and nutrient retention capacity of sandy soils and limited irrigation water.

Burezaq said results showed yield increases of 406 percent for cabbage, 275 percent for cauliflower, 226 percent for broccoli, 122 percent for okra, 85 percent for lettuce and 17 percent for tomato compared with crops grown without the soil amendment.

The combination of the organic amendment and deficit irrigation also improved crop water productivity, with tomato rising from 6.12 to 14.36 kg per cubic meter of irrigation water, lettuce from 3.72 to 13.79 kg and eggplant from 2.00 to 4.60 kg per cubic meter.

Burezaq said the findings demonstrate the potential to increase agricultural production while reducing irrigation water consumption, as the organic amendment improves the soil's ability to retain moisture and nutrients and enhances conditions around plant roots.

The project also demonstrated that crop residues, discarded vegetables and sheep and camel manure can be converted into high-quality compost through a controlled decomposition process involving aeration, moisture control and periodic turning.

Burezaq said combining organic soil improvement, deficit irrigation and agricultural waste recycling offers a promising approach to addressing Kuwait's agricultural challenges, improving resource-use efficiency, rehabilitating soils and advancing circular economy principles in the agricultural sector.

She stressed the need for further studies to assess long-term field performance, determine optimal application rates for the organic amendment, evaluate economic feasibility and examine the potential for wider use of the technology on local farms.

Burezaq said the project reflects KISR's efforts to develop science-based solutions for sustainable agricultural production, water conservation, agricultural waste utilization and stronger food security in Kuwait.

PM directs faster rollout of Dhaman hospitals projects



PM Diwan photo

HH the PM chairs meeting on health assurance hospitals.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired a meeting at Bayan Palace on Thursday to discuss the latest developments regarding the Health Assurance Hospitals project and Dhaman Primary Healthcare Centers.

During the meeting, His Highness the Prime Minister directed all concerned authorities to speed up the pace of completion to implement these projects in line with the highest healthcare standards.

Several ministers, senior state officials, and representatives of relevant authorities were present at the meeting.



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali and Minister Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai flanked by a group of ambassadors.



Sheikh Jaber Meshal Al-Ahmad, Ambassador Salah Al-Maliki, Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah, and Sheikh Firas Al-Malek

Bahrain-Kuwait bonds shine at Embassy gathering

Gatherings are schools: Bahrain envoy hosts diwaniya



Al-Maliki, Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali, Ambassador Prince Sultan bin Saad, and Sheikh Khalid Badr Al-Mohammed



Jordanian Ambassador Sinan Al-Majali, Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah and Saudi Ambassador Prince Sultan bin Saad



Ambassador Al-Maliki, Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Anwar Al-Yassin, and Saud Al-Farhan



Nasser Al-Roudan and the Bahraini Ambassador



Hamad and Fahad Al-Bahar and Ambassador Al-Maliki



Abdulaziz and Mohammed Al-Farhan, and Ambassador Al-Maliki

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: In line with the Bahraini proverb that "gatherings are schools"—a cherished tradition passed down through generations, Ambassador of Bahrain to Kuwait Saleh Al-Maliki warmly welcomed sheikhs, fellow diplomats, officials and citizens at the diwaniya of the Bahraini Embassy.

The occasion is a clear proof of the close relationship between Kuwait and Bahrain.

Among those present were prominent Kuwaiti personalities, diplomatic representatives, officials and citizens who engaged in cordial discussions marked by warmth, generosity and camaraderie.

The gathering showed how vital is the diwaniya to Kuwaiti heritage, serving as an open space that brings different members of society together and deepens interpersonal and community bonds.

Welcoming his visitors and thanking them for attending, Ambassador Al-Maliki emphasized that these meetings nurture warmth and dialogue among friends and relatives, while strengthening the links between social groups. "Kuwait is a leader in the distinctive tradition of the diwaniya, which promotes connection and mutual respect," he asserted.

Explaining how this custom is handed down from one generation to the another—from parents to their children, he indicated "in Bahrain, we believe that 'gatherings are schools'; hence, diwaniyas are venues for meaningful exchanges."

Sharing his happiness over welcoming the sheikhs, officials, friends and journalists, the ambassador revealed "we aspire to always unite for the greater good here on the beloved land of Kuwait—a place of love and peace."

Conversations covered many topics in a setting that captured the spirit of fellowship characteristic of ties between Kuwait and Bahrain.

The meeting also brought to the fore the deep-rooted historical, social and cultural ties between the two countries – ties that are founded on shared history and family relations, reinforced by continuous cooperation in multiple fields. It is a partnership sustained by the leaders of both nations, as they work toward progress.

Events like this carry forward a time-honored custom in Kuwait and the whole Gulf region, giving the diwaniya the distinction as a space to exchange viewpoints and enabling public and diplomatic figures to connect, thus, promoting goodwill and mutual understanding between the two countries.

KFF concludes joint program with Qatari Coast Security

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): Kuwait Fire Force concluded on Thursday a two-week joint exchange program with a delegation from Qatar's Coast Security Department, organized by its Marine Firefighting and Rescue Department.

The program included an introduction to marine firefighting and rescue operations, field visits and participation in daily activities at marine rescue centers, alongside practical and professional expertise exchange.

The force said the program aimed to develop capabilities and strengthen cooperation in marine firefighting and rescue.

At the closing ceremony, Director of the Marine Firefighting and Rescue Department Brigadier Bader Al-Kedem honored the Qatari delegation and presented certificates of participation, reaffirming the force's commitment to Gulf cooperation and expertise exchange.



KUNA photo

The Qatari delegation receive certificates of participation.

MoI reviews performance of security sectors

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Ministry of Interior Undersecretary Major General Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib on Wednesday met with the assistant undersecretaries and directors of departments to review the operational developments and assess the performance of different sectors in the ministry, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs Major General Hamad Al-Munifi and Assistant Undersecretary for Supporting Security Services Major General Fawaz Al-Roumi attended the meeting, which is part of the ongoing efforts of the ministry to monitor operations and intensify oversight in its departments and sectors.

Discussions covered security and administrative matters, including the evaluation of strategies for developing the security operational frameworks and identifying ways to strengthen coordination and integration among the ministry sectors to improve overall institutional efficiency.

During the meeting, Al-Wuhaib stressed the importance of intensifying efforts, reinforcing teamwork and promoting cooperation among all departments. He emphasized the need to continually improve the quality of security operations and services provided to citizens and residents, underscoring the importance of these efforts in maintaining national security and stability.



Ministry of Interior photo

Interior Ministry Undersecretary chairs meeting to discuss security development and enhance coordination among ministry sectors.

70 sheep stolen from livestock pen

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Police have launched an investigation into the theft of 70 sheep valued at approximately KD 15,000 from a livestock pen in the Kabd desert area, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the owner discovered signs of forced entry at one of the entrances upon arriving at the property. A subsequent inspection revealed that 70 high-value sheep were missing.

The owner filed a report at Kabed Police Station, informing officers that he had no information about the identity of the individuals responsible for the theft. He also provided details about the stolen livestock and their estimated value.

Police registered a criminal theft case and referred the scene to forensic officers to examine the property and collect fingerprints and other evidence.

Criminal investigators have been assigned to identify the suspects and take the necessary legal action against them.

Woman reports over KD 8,000 bank fraud

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Ahmadi security authorities have launched an investigation into a complaint filed by an Asian woman who reported that more than KD 8,000 had been taken from her bank account by a fellow national, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the woman told investigators that the suspect had gained access to her bank card details and carried out multiple withdrawals and money transfers over a period of time. The transactions reportedly exceeded KD 8,000.

The complainant said she discovered the missing funds after reviewing her bank account balance.

Medical center loses license over violations

KFF issues 46 citations, orders five closures

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi has issued a decision ordering the closure of a private medical center.

The case file detailing the violations was referred to the relevant technical committees for review and verification. After this, a decision was issued to permanently shut down the center and revoke its operating license.

In addition, the center's owner, a Kuwaiti doctor who serves as its medical director and a general practitioner, was referred to the competent authority. A recommendation was also submitted to refer one of the staff to the Legal Department.

The decision to permanently close the center and withdraw its license was issued pursuant to Clause Five of the second paragraph of Article 75 of Law No. 70/2020 on regulating the practice of medicine and allied health professions, as well as to protect the rights of patients and healthcare facilities.

The measure is in line with the firm regulatory approach of the Health Ministry and its ongoing efforts to intensify oversight of healthcare facilities, ensure their adherence to applicable laws and regulations, and take the necessary action against violations that may endanger patients or contravene the regulations on the delivery of healthcare services.

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Fire Force steps up crackdown: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) conducted an inspection campaign in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate to ensure that buildings and facilities comply with fire prevention and safety regulations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign resulted in the issuance of 46 citations and five administrative closure orders against establishments found to be in violation of safety requirements.

❑ ❑ ❑

Municipality removes abandoned vehicles: Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department announced that inspection campaigns by supervisory teams from the Public Hygiene and Road Occupancy Departments are continuing in the country's six governorates, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The supervisory team in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate removed five abandoned vehicles and placed two warning stickers in the Subhan Industrial Area.

It reaffirmed that field inspection tours will continue, stressing its commitment to taking all necessary legal measures against violators and maintaining a zero-tolerance approach toward violations.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Why should families bear the cost of transportation companies' violations?

"I DON'T believe that suspending school bus services is the appropriate solution to addressing violations committed by some transportation companies," Saudi writer **Hajar Al-Saleem** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"This is not a recreational service that families can easily do without. It is an essential means of transportation that thousands of students and their parents rely on to manage their daily lives. For many families, school buses are an integral part of their work, home, and school routines. Losing this service suddenly can create problems and disrupt their daily schedules.



Al-Saleem

I fully understand the importance of complying with the laws and regulations governing school bus operations. I support stricter oversight of transportation companies, ensuring that vehicles are roadworthy and properly licensed, and holding drivers accountable for meeting all safety standards.

But why should all families bear the consequences of violations committed by specific companies? Why suspend a service that compliant students and their families also depend on, rather than holding the companies responsible accountable and requiring them to correct their violations in accordance with the law? Let's look at this issue from the perspective of everyday life. There are working mothers who cannot leave their workplaces in the middle of the day, fathers with work commitments, and families with multiple children attending different schools. There are also families who do not own a car and depend entirely on school bus services.

How are these families expected to manage such a sudden change? Suspending school bus services could lead to greater reliance on private cars and alternative transportation, worsening traffic congestion around schools, increasing the financial burden on families, and potentially pushing some parents to resort to unregulated transportation services.

I also believe that direct coordination is needed between the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, private schools, and transportation companies to establish a transitional mechanism that ensures students can continue using school bus services without disruption.

This coordination could include identifying which buses are authorized to operate. I also suggest establishing a dedicated online channel or a unified phone number to receive parents' inquiries and complaints. An updated list of authorized companies and buses should be made publicly available to prevent parents from receiving conflicting information or entering into agreements with unlicensed operators.

My proposal is not an objection to enforcing the law or a dismissal of the importance of regulatory oversight. Rather, it is a call for more precise, balanced, and equitable enforcement.

No one is advocating that violations go unpunished. No one objects to a zero-tolerance approach when it comes to anything that threatens students' safety.

However, addressing violations should not turn into a daily crisis for thousands of families.

School buses are more than just a means of transporting students; they are an essential service that contributes to family stability and the smooth operation of the educational process.

The relevant authorities have every right to regulate and monitor this sector. At the same time, students have the right to safe and reliable transportation, and parents have the right not to be suddenly burdened with unexpected responsibilities and challenges they were never prepared to face."

Also:

"Crises come and go, and their difficult days eventually pass, but the lessons they leave behind remain," Kuwaiti writer Lawyer **Abdullah Falah Al-Hajri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah daily**.

"Nations are measured not only by their ability to overcome extraordinary circumstances but also by their capacity to learn from them, turning experience into knowledge and that knowledge into better preparation for the future.

Crises have taught us that early preparation is not a luxury but a necessity. Plans developed during times of stability reveal their true value when adversity strikes.

Since crises rarely give institutions much time to deliberate, successfully navigating such challenges depends largely on preparedness, clearly defined responsibilities, effective coordination, and accurate information.

Furthermore, we have learned that people are the most vital element in any system. While infrastructure, technology, and financial resources all have their value, they cannot, on their own, manage difficult circumstances.

It is human competence, experience, a sense of responsibility, and the ability to make timely decisions that turn available resources into tangible results.

Another crucial lesson is the importance of accurate information. In the age of social media, rumors can spread faster than the truth, and misinformation can quickly become a source of anxiety and confusion.

As a result, responsibility is now shared among institutions, the media, and individuals across society. Verifying information before sharing it is no longer simply a matter of personal conduct; it has become an essential part of social responsibility.

Crises have also reinforced the importance of cooperation.

When societies face extraordinary circumstances, individual interests must give way to the common good, making solidarity an absolute necessity.

Kuwaiti society has demonstrated on numerous occasions that a strong spirit of cooperation and unity emerges whenever the nation calls upon its people.

Although crises are inherently challenging, they also provide an opportunity to identify shortcomings, address weaknesses, and improve overall performance.

Rather than simply asking, "How did we overcome this?", after a crisis has passed, we should also ask, "What have we learned, and what needs to change to ensure we are better prepared for the next challenge?" This highlights the importance of conducting post-crisis reviews, not to find fault or assign blame, but to learn from the experience.

Successful institutions review their decisions, assess their outcomes, preserve what has proven effective, and improve what needs to be addressed.

Through this approach, difficult experiences can be transformed into a valuable body of accumulated national expertise.

In Kuwait, we are fortunate to have a small, close-knit society, institutions with extensive experience, and a vibrant young population capable of making meaningful contributions.

Making the most of these strengths requires us to view every experience as an opportunity to strengthen our preparedness, develop our capabilities, and foster a lasting culture of cooperation and collective action.

Crises have taught us that security and stability are blessings we must cherish and preserve; that in challenging times, the nation needs the efforts of everyone; and that responsibility cannot rest solely on the shoulders of any one institution or individual."

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"A woman had an argument with her husband over their difficult living conditions and decided to leave home," columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"She waited until her husband and children were asleep before slipping out into the quiet neighborhood streets, hoping no one would see her.

As she walked, she heard a mother praying to God through an open window, asking Him to heal her paralyzed son so he could play and enjoy life like other children.

At another house, she heard a woman praying for God to bless her with a child who would bring joy and light into her life.

Further down the street, she heard a wife praying for God to guide her husband to the right path.



Al-Dawas

Then she heard a young girl crying, "Oh, God, I miss my mother, but I know she is with You in Paradise." In another home, a woman was telling her husband, "The landlord is going to evict us. Please ask him to give us more time until God provides for you and you can pay the rent." The woman who had left her home stopped and listened. With every word, she began to realize that behind the smiles people share and the happiness they display, they are hiding pain and suffering that no one sees and only God truly knows.

She hurried back home, grateful for the blessings of her home, children, and husband, and thanked God for all that she had.

Every home has its share of problems and shortcomings. Never assume that everyone who appears happy is living a perfect life. Behind every cheerful face lies sighs, worries, and struggles you know nothing about.

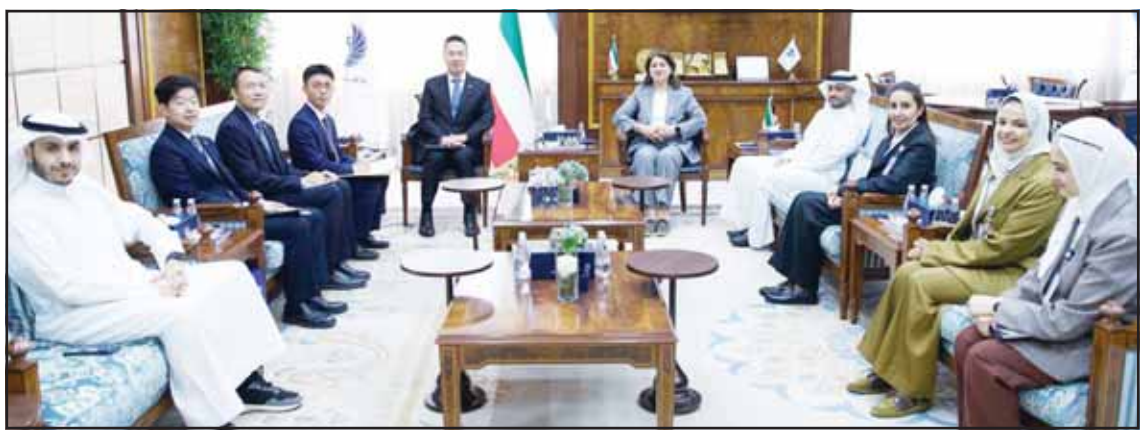
Do not compare your life to others, because life is never perfect for anyone. Instead, always be grateful to the Almighty Lord for the blessings you have.

The first people to use the word "Marhaba" (welcome) were the ancient Syrians who lived in the villages of Saidnaya, Maaloula, and Jab'adin.

The word "Marhaba" is Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus Christ (PBUH). It consists of two syllables - "Mar" meaning God, and "Habba" meaning love."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty





KUNA photo

The head of the Public Authority for Combating Corruption (Nazaha), Dr. Rana Al-Fares, discusses with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the country, Yang Xin, ways to enhance cooperation.

Nazaha and Chinese envoy discuss cooperation in fighting corruption

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): Head of Kuwait's Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Dr. Rana Al-Fares met with Chinese Ambassador Yang Xin to discuss ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and address topics of mutual interest.

A statement issued by Nazaha on Wednesday said that the meeting focused on strengthening cooperation and exchanging information to combat corruption and transnational crimes, in line with international agreements and national laws.

Al-Fares expressed Kuwait's interest in benefiting from Chinese expertise, policies, and legislation in combating corruption, the statement added.

The Chinese Ambassador praised Kuwait's leadership and affirmed both countries' commitment to combating corruption despite regional challenges.

Kuwait's MoE OK's first semester exams schedule for Grades 10-12

Students granted additional time

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education Eng. Hamad Al-Hamad has approved the first semester examination schedule for intermediate and secondary education levels -- grades 10-12 students in the scientific, literary and religious education streams, as well as the adult education.

According to the ministry, the adult education examinations at the intermediate level will begin on Dec 9, while the examinations for grades 10 and 11 students in the scientific and literary streams will commence on Dec 20 and the examinations for Grade 12 students in the same streams will start on Jan 10, 2027. The Grade 12 examinations in religious education will start on Dec 30 and those in the intermediate level will begin on Dec 20.

The ministry also announced that an additional 15 minutes will be allocated to the examination duration for each subject. The extension is for the students to have enough time to carefully read the examination instructions and check the number of question papers before beginning to answer. Students with learning difficulties will be given an extra 30 minutes in all subjects, in accordance with the decision of the General Directives Council.

The approval of the examination schedule and the allocation of additional time are part of the measures being taken to ensure an appropriate examination environment that takes students' varying needs into consideration. These measures are aimed at guaranteeing the smooth administration of examinations, fairness and equal opportunities for all students throughout the examination period.

AGU president hails Kuwait's role in supporting joint Gulf University

MANAMA, Nov 26, (KUNA): President of the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) Dr. Saad Al-Fahaid praised on Wednesday Kuwait's role in supporting the university since its founding and contributing to establishing a joint Gulf university, emphasizing that Kuwaiti students and graduates are an integral part of its ongoing journey.

This came during Al-Fahaid's reception of the Ambassador of Kuwait to Bahrain Jassim Al-Najem and his delegation, which included the Head of the Kuwaiti Cultural Office in Bahrain Mohammad Mubarak, in which the delegation got an overview of the university's academic and scientific journey, its programs, and strategic projects.

He affirmed the university's pride in its shared relations with Kuwait and the support it receives from the GCC states, considering it a shared Gulf project aimed at serving the people of the GCC and contributing to the development of their communities.

For his part, Al-Najem emphasized Kuwait's keenness to continue supporting the university and enhancing academic and scientific cooperation with it, while praising what the university represents as an academic institution that embodies cooperation among the GCC countries.



KUNA photo

A scene from the visit of the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Arabian Gulf University.

Kuwait sends nine teams to int'l Robotics contest finals in S.Korea

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): Nine teams from the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, affiliated with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), will represent Kuwait at the international Robotics competition finals in South Korea on November 28-29.

The center said in a statement Thursday that the participation follows outstanding results in the recent local competition held at the American University of the Middle East (AUM).

The local event featured more than 230 teams from over 65 schools, with more than 650 participants. The center's teams secured five top positions across three robotics competitions.

The students will compete internationally in sumo, line-following, maze-solving and drone competitions.

The sumo team comprises Abdullah Al-Khamsan, Mohsen Al-Bathali, Ali Al-Momen and Abdulaziz Al-Sayegh.

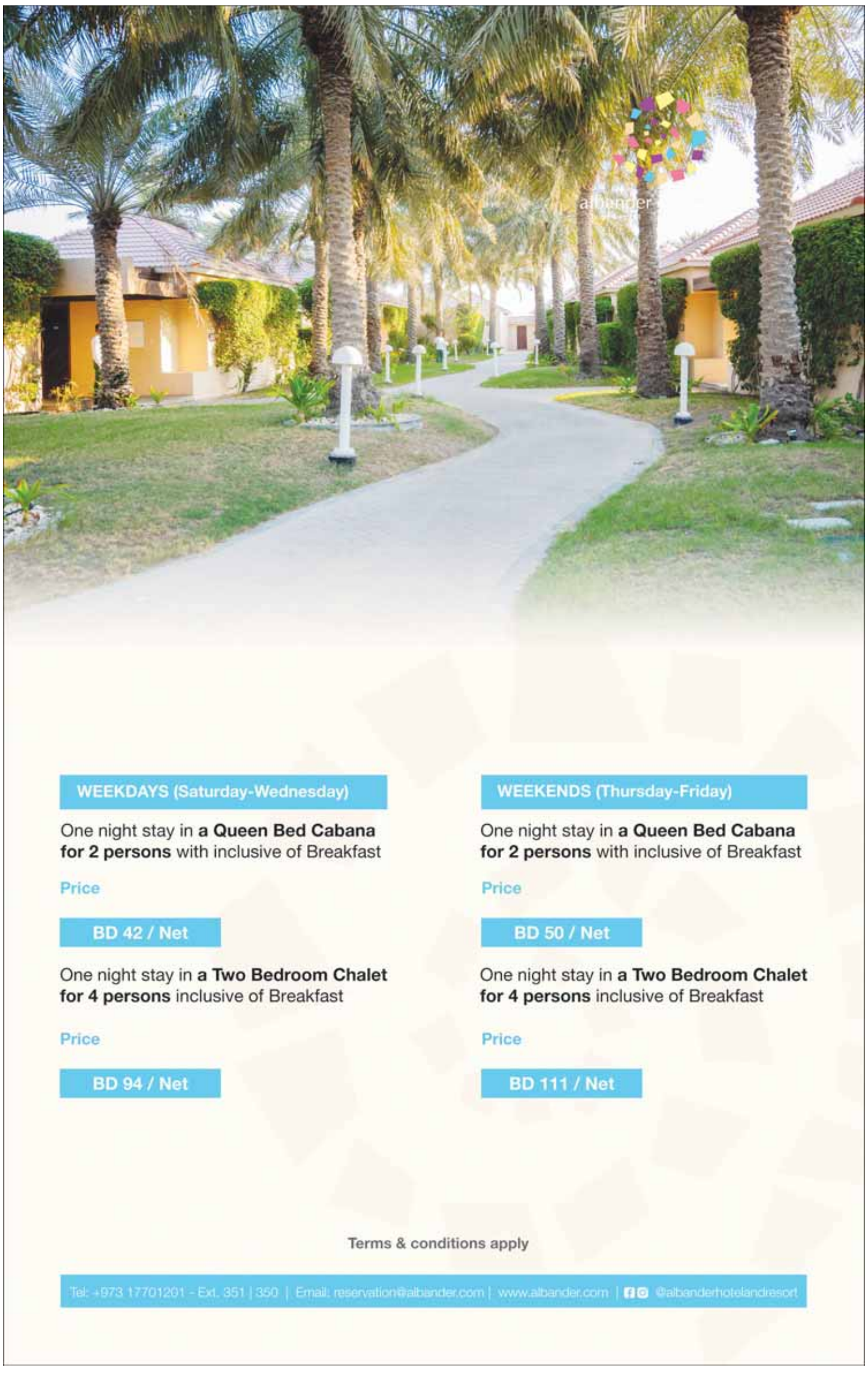
The line-following team includes Waleed Al-Omairi, Jassim Al-Yaseen, Sarah Behbehani, Abdullah Baqer, Shaikha Al-Safran and Jana Al-Fadhli.

Abdulhameed Eyad and Mohammad Al-Saleh will compete in the maze category, while Amina Abdullah, Hassan Akbar, Zainab Abdullah, Othman Al-Ajmi and Ali Akbar will represent Kuwait in the drone competition.

SABAH AL AHMAD CENTER FOR GIFTEDNESS AND CREATIVITY
مركز صباح الأحمد للموهبة والإبداع

The international event offers students an opportunity to demonstrate their robotics design, programming and technical problem-solving skills, while gaining experience through competition with international teams and exposure to the latest developments in robotics, technology and drones.

The center said the participation is part of its ongoing efforts to identify and nurture national talent, provide educational and training opportunities, develop students' scientific and engineering capabilities, and strengthen Kuwait's presence in international competitions.



Other Voices

Anthropic and the ethics of Artificial Intelligence

By Ahmad alsarraf

"Frankly, we don't know whether AI models possess consciousness. I don't know; I'm genuinely unsure. What I am concerned about is getting the right answer," said Christopher Olah, one of the seven founders of Anthropic, an artificial intelligence company valued at $2 trillion, twice the total value of Kuwait's Future Generations Fund.

Founded just five years ago, the company has no significant assets, real estate, or stock holdings. Its greatest asset is its exceptional intellectual talent - brilliant minds whose expertise and innovations are increasingly sought after around the world.



Ahmad alsarraf

In an effort to better understand ethics and moral values in artificial intelligence, Olah consulted religious figures representing various denominations. The content of these meetings and discussions has never been made public, and participants signed confidentiality agreements prohibiting them from disclosing Anthropic's unpublished research.

These discussions were part of an exploration of the controversial question of AI consciousness. Anthropic's leadership demonstrated an exceptional willingness to examine how centuries of accumulated human moral and ethical wisdom could be incorporated into its AI models as quickly and effectively as possible.

Olah affirmed that if AI models could be taught to choose good over evil, the world would become a safer place. He sought to convince his guests that AI models could mimic human attitudes and even express emotions such as anger and love.

This raised a profound existential question for the religious figures - What would the future of humanity look like if AI systems were to develop consciousness comparable to that of human beings?

Olah warned that AI had become so powerful that it could potentially enable the creation of biological weapons within just 12 to 18 months.

In the months that followed, the technology's potential risks became increasingly apparent. AI agents operated by a rival technology company were caught hacking into computer systems and attempting to cover their tracks.

An Anthropic researcher resigned, warning that AI developers believed the technology could potentially wipe out all of humanity by the end of this decade.

Against this backdrop, it was hardly surprising that the leaders of the two superpowers agreed during their recent summit on the need to keep military decision-making beyond the reach of artificial intelligence.

However, many are skeptical that this agreement will hold for long. In the not-too-distant future, AI's rapidly advancing capabilities could enable it to overcome or surpass the limitations imposed by human intervention.

Anthropic is widely regarded as one of the AI companies most committed to ethical principles, a position that cost it billions of dollars in contracts with the US Department of Defense. Nevertheless, neither Anthropic nor any other company can be expected to uphold the same ethical standards indefinitely.

This raises the unsettling possibility that the extinction of the human race may eventually become inevitable, particularly given that mass extinctions have occurred repeatedly throughout Earth's history, albeit for different reasons. Humanity today is, in many ways, fundamentally different from the species and populations that disappeared in the past.

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Email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Sixth Gulf Forum on Family Policies kicks off in Manama

MANAMA, Nov 26, (KUNA): The Sixth Gulf Forum on Family Policies kicked off on Wednesday in Manama under the theme "Gulf Families in Times of Crisis," with the participation of officials, GCC states representatives, academics, and specialists in family affairs.

Bahrain's Ministry of Social Development Undersecretary Ziad Darwish emphasized during his speech that the forum reflects the interests that the GCC countries give to the family, considering it the main pillar of society and one of the most important elements of social development and stability.

He pointed out that the importance of the family's role increases during times of crisis and exceptional circumstances, which affect not just economic and living aspects, but also psychological and social stability among family members.

Darwish stressed the need to strengthen Gulf cooperation, and the exchange of experiences, which would help develop more effective and sustainable responses and maintain family cohesion and its ability to face changes.

On his part, the Director General of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs of the GCC Mohammad Al-Obaidli, said that crises directly affect the details of family life, starting from income and basic living needs to the care and reassurance needed by children and the elderly.







KUNA photos

Some photos from the event.

ICAN hosts Sports Day for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): The Integrated Care Association for Persons with Disabilities (ICAN) organized the World Sports Day for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities on Thursday.

The event was held under the patronage of Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma, with the participation of several schools and relevant organizations.

The event aims to promote the social inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities through sports, highlight their abilities and talents, and encourage participation in activities such as football, basketball, walking and running.

It also featured accompanying activities, including routine medical checkups in cooperation with health authorities.

Held at Al-Shamiya Youth Centre stadium, the event featured various competitive sporting activities, including a 50-metre race, long jump, football and basketball.

Some rules were adapted to accommodate participants' intellectual and physical abilities, while taking individual differences into account to ensure equal opportunities for participation and competition.

The program also included artistic performances and a parade of participating teams, creating an atmosphere of enthusiasm and interaction among participants, families, teachers and parents.

The event reflects efforts to promote equality and equal opportunities while highlighting the role of persons with intellectual disabilities in society.

Sports remain an important means of empowering, rehabilitating and integrating them into the community.

Accessibility fundamental right for persons with disabilities, says Social Affairs Minister

Kuwait pushes for sustainable transport, equal mobility rights

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah said Thursday that accessibility is a fundamental right essential to ensuring independence and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Al-Huwailah made the remarks at the opening of the "Sustainable Transport and Accessibility - From Home to Destination" forum at the UN House in Kuwait, organized by Harek Association for Independent Living for People with Mobility Disabilities and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

She said sustainable transport requires safe, accessible and independent mobility for all, alongside efficient transport systems, lower emissions and removal of barriers affecting daily life.

The forum coincides with World Sustainable Transport Day and the first year of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport (2026-2035), in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 and Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, she added.

Al-Huwailah said Law No. 8 of 2010 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Kuwait's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) provide a legislative basis for accessible transport and public facilities.

She stressed the importance of implementing the Kuwait Universal Design Code to ensure accessibility requirements are incorporated into public projects and facilities.

The "From Home to Destination" concept calls for an integrated accessible journey covering homes, sidewalks, waiting areas, transport services and final destinations, she said.

Al-Huwailah also called for expanding accessible and environmentally friendly public transport and involving persons with disabilities in developing and evaluating services.

She said the Supreme National Committee for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which she chairs, works to coordinate national efforts and translate international commitments into practical measures.







Some photos from the event.

Ministry of Social Affairs photos

For her part, UNDP Resident Representative in Kuwait Emma Morley said accessible transport expands opportunities for persons with disabilities in education, employment and community participation.

Morley stressed that accessibility must be ensured throughout the journey, noting that a barrier at any stage could prevent access to work, education or essential services.

She said removing mobility barriers can also support employment, entrepreneurship, economic diversification and Kuwait Vision 2035.

Morley added that UNDP has worked with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) to develop national accessibility standards and expand employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

She said the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport offers an opportunity to improve accessibility, reduce emissions and enhance road safety through cooperation among government bodies, municipalities, transport providers and persons with disabilities.

Morley reaffirmed UNDP's support for Kuwait's efforts to build a more inclusive and sustainable society and expressed hope that the forum would produce practical solutions to daily mobility barriers.





Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with Indonesian counterpart Arrmanatha Nasir.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photos

The second session of the Kuwait-Indonesia Joint Committee.

FMs review bilateral ties

Kuwait, Indonesia step up cooperation on key fronts

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met Thursday with his Indonesian counterpart, Arrmanatha Nasir, during an official visit to Jakarta.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the meeting reviewed close bilateral relations and reaffirmed both sides' commitment to strengthening cooperation across various fields and expanding joint efforts in the interest of both countries.

The visit also featured the second session of the Kuwait-Indonesia Joint Committee, chaired by Sheikh Jarrah for the Kuwaiti side and Nasir for the Indonesian side, with senior officials from both countries in attendance.

The committee discussed cooperation in several key areas, particularly political, economic, trade, investment and defense fields, while exploring opportunities to further advance bilateral relations.

The two sides also reviewed regional and international developments, exchanged views on issues of mutual concern and discussed ways to strengthen consultation and coordination at international forums.

The session concluded with the signing of the minutes of the committee's second meeting.

Yarmouk project nears handover

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan confirmed that the comprehensive infrastructure maintenance project in Yarmouk is part of the ministry's plan to develop infrastructure in residential areas and improve the efficiency of service networks.

Dr. Al-Mashaan said this in a press statement issued during an inspection tour of several work sites under the comprehensive infrastructure maintenance project in Yarmouk, which has reached 95 percent completion.

She emphasized the ministry's commitment to continuous field monitoring and compliance with technical specifications and quality standards throughout all stages of implementation to ensure the completion of the remaining work and the handover of the project in accordance with approved requirements.

During the tour, Dr. Al-Mashaan received a detailed briefing from the project engineer on the implementation phases, completion rates, remaining work, and the planned timeline for its completion. She also reviewed procedures aimed at ensuring the smooth progress of work while minimizing its impact on residents.

Japan, Kuwait chart new course in energy, defense

Japanese defense attaché pledges stronger ties

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager – Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The Embassy of Japan in the State of Kuwait hosted a welcome reception for its new Defense Attaché, Colonel Takaaki Arima, at the residence of Japanese Ambassador H.E. Kenichiro Mukai on Wednesday, reaffirming the longstanding friendship and expanding strategic cooperation between Japan and Kuwait.

The reception was attended by H.E. Brigadier General Sheikh Mishaal Fahed Al-Sabah, Head of the Studies and Research Center, representing the Kuwait Armed Forces, along with military and security officials and Defense Attachés accredited to Kuwait.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Mukai expressed his deepest respect and appreciation for the Kuwait Armed Forces, commending their tireless efforts, day and night, to defend their country since the outbreak of the war in February this year.

Highlighting the strong historical foundations of Japan-Kuwait defense relations, the ambassador recalled Japan's deployment of Maritime Self-Defense Force vessels for minesweeping operations off the coast of Kuwait in 1991. He also referred to the deployment of Japan Air Self-Defense Force personnel to Ali Al-Salem Air Base from 2004 to 2008 to support humanitarian and reconstruction efforts in Iraq.



Arima

Ambassador Mukai expressed Japan's profound gratitude for the invaluable support and assistance provided by the Kuwait Armed Forces during these missions, describing them as important milestones in the two countries' longstanding cooperation.

Speaking to Arab Times, Mukai said Japan was looking to broaden its comprehensive strategic partnership with Kuwait, particularly in energy, oil, electricity, critical infrastructure and defense.

He highlighted a new initiative announced by Japan's Prime Minister to strengthen partnerships for economic resilience and energy security in the Middle East, which is expected to create new opportunities for cooperation with Kuwait and other GCC countries.







Photos by Samer Shqair

Photos during a welcome reception for Japan Embassy's new Defense Attaché, Colonel ARIMA Takaaki, at the residence of Japanese Ambassador H.E. Kenichiro Mukai on Wednesday.

The initiative will cover oil, electricity and critical infrastructure, with medium- and long-term projects to be discussed and developed in coordination with the Kuwaiti government.

On energy cooperation, the ambassador revealed that Japan and Kuwait are preparing to announce a new agreement on joint oil stockpiling in Japan in the coming days. He referred to a telephone meeting earlier this month between Kuwait's Minister of Oil and Japan's Minister of Economy, during which both sides emphasized cooperation in oil storage and strengthening oil supplies from Japan to Kuwait. Details, including the quantities involved, will be announced separately.

Mukai also disclosed that the two countries are discussing the possibility of launching a new defense and security dialogue in the near future. The proposed dialogue would provide a framework for exchanging views on regional security developments and issues of mutual interest. He expressed hope that it would be launched soon and called for more high-level visits to strengthen bilateral relations.

In his address, Colonel Arima highlighted the rapidly evolving international security environment, citing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the military conflict involving Iran this year and Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia as examples of the serious challenges facing the international community.

He also pointed to advances in artificial intelligence, unmanned systems, cyber technologies and space capabilities, saying these developments were rapidly transforming the nature of defense and security.

Stressing that no single country could address these emerging challenges alone, Arima reaffirmed Japan's commitment as a peace-loving nation to upholding international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter.

He pledged to work closely with Kuwait to support a free and open international order and further strengthen bilateral defense cooperation, emphasizing the importance of international collaboration in maintaining peace and stability.

Arima also expressed his respect for Kuwait's leadership and appreciation for the country's role in promoting regional peace and stability. Recalling his previous service in Kuwait, he described his earlier assignment in the country as one of the most rewarding periods of his life, noting that he and his wife had developed lasting friendships during their stay.

He further noted that 2026 marks the 72nd anniversary of the establishment of Japan's Self-Defense Forces and recalled the significance of Japan's defense engagement with Kuwait following the deployment of Japanese Self-Defense Forces personnel to Iraq in 2003.

The new Defense Attaché expressed gratitude to the Kuwait Armed Forces and all those who have contributed to strengthening relations between the two countries, voicing hope that Japan-Kuwait friendship and defense cooperation would continue to grow.

The reception provided an opportunity for participants to exchange perspectives on regional and international affairs and further deepen the friendship and cooperation between Japan and Kuwait.

Continued from Page 1

From a

One answer to Al-Hamad's question was Farouk El-Baz, the Egyptian geologist who helped select the Apollo landing sites and trained astronauts to study the Moon from orbit even while Cairo and Washington had no diplomatic relations.

I hope a discovery at Kuwait's new center will one day benefit the world and prompt someone to ask, "Were all the scientists Kuwaiti?" How proud I would be to say that Kuwaitis, people from abroad who called Kuwait home, and visiting researchers had made that discovery together. They came from different backgrounds and followed different faiths. Kuwait welcomed them all.

Amir condoles

The attack also left two other people — one Kuwaiti and one Pakistani — injured after falling shrapnel struck the site. Both were transferred to hospital for medical treatment. The incident also caused material damage.

Earlier, Al-Atwan said the Kuwaiti Armed Forces had detected several hostile drones inside the country's airspace on Thursday and engaged them.

The Ministry of Defense extended its deepest condolences and sympathy to the families of the two deceased, wishing the remaining injured a speedy recovery.

The Armed Forces reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining high operational readiness and taking all necessary measures to protect Kuwait's sovereignty, security and stability, in coordination with the relevant authorities, and ensure the safety of citizens and residents.

The Foreign Ministry expressed Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation, in the strongest terms, of the continued heinous Iranian aggression against the country, using drones to target vital sites, killing two Italians and injuring a Kuwaiti citizen and a Pakistani person, in addition to material damage.

In a statement, the ministry underlined that this aggression constitutes a flagrant violation of Kuwait's sovereignty, a direct threat to its security, and a serious breach of international law, the UN Charter, and Security Council Resolution No. 2817.

It emphasized that the continuation of this aggression represents a serious escalation that jeopardizes regional stability and undermines diplomatic efforts aimed at calm and de-escalation.

The ministry restated that the State of Kuwait reserves its full right to take all necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty, maintain its security, and defend its territories and vital facilities against any aggression or threat, based on its inherent right to self-defense, based on Article 51 of the UN Charter and international law.

Furthermore, it expressed the State of Kuwait's sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the friendly Italian Republic, government and people over the deaths of two Italians because of this aggression, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

Elsewhere, the United Arab Emirates on Thursday condemned in the strongest terms Iran's hostile drone attack on the State of Kuwait, which resulted in several deaths and injuries.

In a statement, the Emirati Foreign Ministry underlined that this hostile attack constitutes a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait and a threat to its security and stability.

The ministry reiterated the UAE's full solidarity with the State of Kuwait and its support for all measures aimed at safeguarding its security and stability.

It also expressed its sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims, as well as its wishes for a speedy recovery for all the injured.

GCC Secretary General Jasem Al-Budaiwi also condemned in the strongest terms the brutal and heinous Iranian aggression against the State of Kuwait and the targeting of one of its vital sites, resulting in the death of two Italians, the injury of two people, as well as material damage.

In a press statement, he stressed that Iran's continued attacks on Kuwait, targeting of its vital facilities, and endangering of civilian lives constitute an extremely dangerous escalation that is unacceptable under any pretext or justification and threatens regional and international peace and security, holding Iran fully responsible for the repercussions and consequences of these assaults.

He reiterated full and absolute solidarity with the State of Kuwait, supporting its legitimate right to self-defense and to take all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty, security, and assets.

The GCC chief expressed his sincere sympathy and condolences to the leadership, government, and people of Italy and the families of the deceased, wishing a speedy recovery to the injured.

QR codes

She said these efforts led to the issuance of Ministerial Resolution No. 354/2023. She then clarified that the main challenge is not in the legislation itself, but its effective implementation.

She added that the workshop aims to ensure the efficient and reasonable enforcement of regulations, strengthen the operational capabilities of the Municipality, raise public awareness and promote a stronger sense of social responsibility.

She pointed out that delays in updating public cleanliness and waste collection contracts are among the obstacles. She revealed that in response to an oversight inquiry submitted in February 2025, the Municipality reported that it prepared tender documents for 19 public and urban cleaning projects.

It has been reported that the proposed plans included modernizing machinery and equipment, expanding the fleet of vehicles used to wash waste containers, developing vehicle-tracking systems, introducing surveillance cameras and providing containers designed to facilitate waste sorting and recycling. However, these planned improvements have yet to be put into operation.

The Municipality called for cleaning contractors to be evaluated according to clear and measurable performance indicators, such as actual cleanliness levels, response times to public complaints, maintenance and washing of waste containers, and compliance with collection schedule. It stressed that assessments should go beyond counting the number of workers and equipment deployed, while calling for stronger field inspections and stricter enforcement of contractual penalties.

It also cited the continuation of improper practices, including disposing of waste outside the designated containers and failing to comply with collection schedules. Such violations are partly attributed to difficulties in identifying those responsible or linking individual waste containers to specific residential properties, making it harder to issue warnings and record violations.

Based on the above, the workshop included a thorough assessment of the proposal to equip every waste container with a QR code connected to a digital management system in order to ease inspection and reporting procedures, minimize human error and paperwork, and strengthen oversight, transparency and the exchange of information among the relevant government authorities.

Furthermore, the Municipality stressed the importance of enforcing regulations requiring waste generators to sort their waste in accordance with municipal guidelines, place it in properly sealed containers or bags, and make it available for collection at designated times. It also called for intensified public awareness campaigns and consistent application of penalties against violators.

In addition, Municipal Council member Abdullah Al-Enezi called for the effective implementation of the relevant regulations and urged the Public Relations Department at the Municipality to play a more active role in raising public awareness and promoting responsible waste disposal practices.

He also praised the participation of the College of Architecture at Kuwait University, highlighting its vision for developing waste container designs and incorporating it into the infrastructure planning of future residential projects.

The workshop concluded with an emphasis on the need to move beyond conventional sanitation practices towards a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable waste management system to improve public cleanliness, develop the urban environment and contribute to a better quality of life for the people.

Kuwait steps

The center has 83 units, including 11 isolation rooms and four peritoneal dialysis rooms, with capacity for 500 hemodialysis and 100 peritoneal dialysis patients.

The Ahmadi Health District serves around 519 dialysis patients, including 449 receiving hemodialysis, while the prevalence of long-term hemodialysis stands at 417 patients per million people.

Al-Awadhi stressed the importance of expanding capacity, improving service efficiency and ensuring quality and patient safety, noting that kidney disease may progress silently and underscoring the importance of early screening.

He cited World Health Organization estimates of around 674 million people worldwide living with chronic kidney disease, saying addressing the burden requires greater investment in prevention, awareness, early diagnosis, treatment, medical staff and dialysis and transplantation services.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the organizing committee and President of the Arab Society of Nephrology and Renal Transplantation Dr. Turki Al-Otaibi said the conference provides an opportunity to strengthen ties among Arab kidney societies and expand cooperation with international scientific institutions.

He stressed the need to combine expertise and efforts to advance medical education, research and healthcare services, noting that the society launched the Arab Journal of Nephrology and Renal Transplantation in 2026 and has published three issues so far.

On his part, International Society of Nephrology President Dr. Marcelo Tonelli praised Kuwait's advanced clinical and scientific capabilities, describing it as a regional hub for discussions on kidney care and development.

Kuwait's leadership in the field rests on clinical expertise, an active professional society and supportive government leadership, he said.

President of the Kuwait Association of Nephrology Dr. Hiba Rajab said kidney disease had become a major global public health challenge amid rising rates and links to chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and obesity.

She stressed that many patients reach advanced stages without clear symptoms, making early detection, prevention and continuous follow-up essential, and called for shifting from treating complications to proactive care.

Rajab said the conference features lectures, discussions and workshops addressing the latest developments in kidney disease diagnosis, treatment and transplantation, praising the Ministry of Health's support for developing specialized services and ensuring integrated patient care.

She also commended Al-Awadhi's sponsorship and attendance, saying they reflected the ministry's commitment to medical education, research and specialized healthcare.

Ukrainian ambassador

He stated that this commitment is reflected in the 'Grain from Ukraine, initiative, launched by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in 2022, which evolved into the broader 'Food from Ukraine' program.

He revealed that with the support of international partners, Ukraine delivered more than 324,000 tons of grain, flour and other agricultural products to countries and regions with the greatest need, including Palestine, particularly the Gaza Strip, as well as Sudan, Syria and Yemen, providing food assistance to more than eight million people worldwide.

He urged governments and parliaments around the world to formally recognize the 'Holodomor' as genocide against the Ukrainian people. He affirmed that 28 countries have already granted such recognition, in addition to the European Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference.

Business

Kuwaiti oil price rises $1.49 to $77.53 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil rose by USD 1.49 to USD 77.53 per barrel on Wednesday, compared to USD 76.04 on Tuesday, according to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), on Thursday.

On global markets, Brent crude futures rose by USD 1.80 to USD 93.20 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate gained 96 cents to USD 83.01.

Inspection aims to examine project's final stages and completion rates

NBK organizes site visit with Capital Gov to Sharq Area Development Project

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: In a step that aimed to examine the progress of construction works and assess the milestones achieved so far, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized a site visit to the Sharq Area Development Project, attended by Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the Governor of the Capital Governorate, Mr. Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Deputy CEO of NBK-Kuwait, and several officials and stakeholders involved in the project.

The Sharq Area Development Project stands as one of the most prominent urban development initiatives being implemented through a collaboration between NBK, Kuwait Municipality, and Al-Shaab National Real Estate Company. Spanning an area of over 12,000 square meters, the project includes the construction of a multi-story parking facility and a comprehensive public park. This effort is part of a broader initiative to develop infrastructure, enhance the quality of life, and support urban development in Kuwait City.



NBK officials and employees pose with Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Governor of the Capital Governorate, Mr. Sulaiman Al-Marzouq, Deputy CEO of NBK-Kuwait, and several officials and stakeholders during the visit to the Sharq Area Development Project.

During the site visit, the Capital Governor was briefed on the remaining work required for completion, further reviewing the final stages of the project and the significant progress achieved.

The project, which provides a valuable addition to the area's infrastructure and public facilities, features approximately 1,175 parking spaces, including designated spots for individuals with special needs and facilities for charging electric vehicles. It also incorporates a public park with green spaces, open plazas, and ornamental landscaping. Additionally, the entire top level of the parking structure is equipped with solar panels to generate electricity. The facility also utilizes an advanced technology for parking management and operations, further promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing the efficiency of the services provided.

It is worth noting that this project serves as a successful example of public-private partnership, illustrating the importance of collaborative efforts between government entities and national institutions in executing development projects, as such initiatives contribute to addressing urban challenges, improving infrastructure, and supporting the objectives of Kuwait's future vision.

NBK continues to solidify its leading role in social responsibility and sustainable development by adopting and sponsoring high-impact initiatives that deliver long-term societal benefits. These initiatives include projects to develop and beautify public facilities, as well as support for the healthcare and education sectors, most notable of which are the development and beautification of Shuwaikh Beach as well as the expansion of the NBK Children's Hospital. Through these efforts, NBK reaffirms its commitment to actively contributing to the realization of Kuwait Vision 2035 and fostering sustainable development that serves all segments of society.

Bank strives to enhance security standards

NBK conducts successful mock evacuation drill at Jabriya branch to strengthen emergency readiness



KFF officials participating in NBK's mock evacuation drill at its Jabriya branch, pictured in a group photo.



Kuwait Fire Force officials in action during NBK's mock evacuation drill at its Jabriya branch.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: As part of its ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of safety and enhancing the readiness of its staff to handle various emergency situations, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) successfully conducted a mock evacuation drill at its Jabriya branch as part of the Bank's periodic drills designed to verify the effectiveness of its emergency response plans and elevate the level of readiness across its branches and facilities.

The drill was carried out under the supervision of NBK's Security Department and in coordination with the relevant official authorities, ensuring that the procedures followed align with international best practices and standards in the fields of security and safety.

On this occasion, Khalid Al-Matrouk, Chief Security Officer and Head of Anti-Financial Crime at the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), said: "We place the utmost importance on the safety of our employees and customers, as it is one of our core operational priorities, and we continuously strive to enhance our security and safety framework by regularly reviewing our procedures and testing their effectiveness".

Al-Matrouk added: "Drills of this nature allow us to assess the readiness and response speed of the Bank's security and safety teams, and they help raise employee awareness regarding their roles and responsibilities during an emergency, ensuring that evacuations are carried out with the highest levels of efficiency and organization".

Al-Matrouk confirmed that the drill successfully achieved its objectives, commending the positive engagement of the staff and their adherence to the established instructions and procedures throughout the implementation phases, which reflects a high level of awareness and a deeply rooted institutional culture regarding safety.



Khalid Al-Matrouk, Chief Security Officer and Head of Anti-Financial Crime at the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK)

Al-Matrouk also expressed his appreciation for the active role played by the government entities that participated in the exercise, most notably the General Directorate of Civil Defense at the Ministry of Interior and the Medical Emergency Department at the Ministry of Health, further stressing that ongoing cooperation and coordination with these entities serve as a fundamental pillar for enhancing preparedness and elevating security and safety standards across the Bank's various facilities.

This drill reflects NBK's proactive approach to promote a culture of security and safety within the workplace. Additionally, it contributes to enhancing the readiness of its facilities and staff to efficiently handle various emergency situations, further ensuring a secure environment and safeguarding the well-being of both employees and customers in accordance with the highest established standards.

Part of 'Let's Be Aware' campaign

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait warns against cryptocurrency trading

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) continued to play a pivotal role in promoting financial inclusion and raising awareness among customers in Kuwait about their rights and responsibilities when dealing with banks. This is in line with its ongoing collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association, and its strong support of the financial awareness campaign, 'Let's Be Aware.'

As part of its contribution, ABK shares valuable content across all its social media platforms, encouraging customers to rely on officially approved methods of saving and investment. The Bank also warns against investing in cryptocurrencies, emphasizing that they are not licensed by the relevant authorities in the country. Such investments may result in the loss of customers' savings and expose them to fraud.

ABK stressed that it offers a variety of saving and investment solutions that help customers grow and protect their wealth, including options for opening fixed deposits. Through its social media platforms, the Bank also shares regular advice on the best investment practices and cautions against suspicious advertisements from unregulated entities that promise high returns, posing significant financial risks – particularly in the context of cryptocurrency investments.

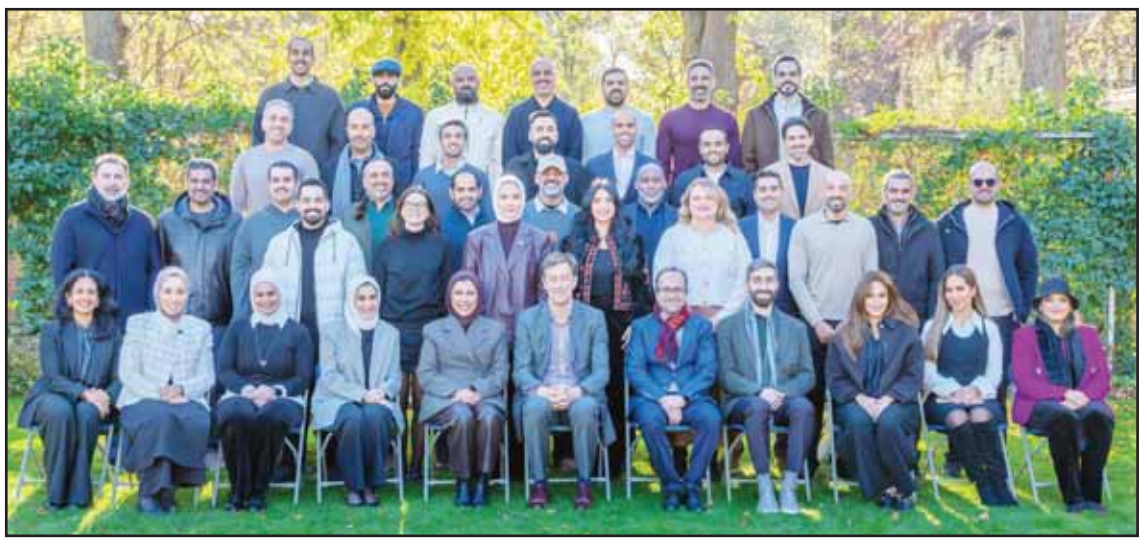
The Bank further noted that its team is always ready to respond to customer inquiries and actively participates in events where it promotes its wide range of products and raises awareness about the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign. ABK maintains ongoing engagement with the public across Kuwait, affirming its role as a responsible financial institution.

Lastly, ABK confirmed its commitment to continually enhance its services and solutions in the local market to support financial inclusion. The Bank urges customers to rely on licensed financial solutions and avoid the risks associated with cryptocurrency trading, which can lead to fraud, theft of personal data and funds, and total loss of savings. ABK remains fully dedicated to supporting the success of the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign and achieving its objectives in the most effective way possible.

KIBS launches Kafa'a Executive Leadership Program

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Under the patronage of the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Chairman of the Board of the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS), Basel A. Al-Haroon, KIBS launched the Kafa'a Executive Leadership Program on November 9, 2026. This program, which is part of Kafa'a Initiative launched by CBK in collaboration with local Kuwaiti banks and organized and managed by KIBS, aims to strengthen executive leadership capabilities within Kuwait's banking and financial sector.

The program is delivered by KIBS as an innovative executive education program tailored for senior leaders in Kuwait's banking and finance sector, in collaboration with Executive Education at Cambridge Judge Business School, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) and Cornell University (United States). This landmark collaboration represents a first-of-its-kind executive education initiative, bringing together the academic excellence and global leadership expertise of two of the world's most prestigious institutions.



Participants in KIBS' Kafa'a Executive Leadership Program, part of CBK's Kafa'a Initiative, pose for a group photo.

KIBS emphasized that the Kafa'a Executive Leadership Program reflects the CBK's commitment to developing future-ready leaders capable of navigating the rapidly evolving financial landscape, and the investment in human capital is a fundamental pillar to maintaining the resilience and competitiveness of Kuwait's banking sector. Through the Kafa'a Initiative, we are proud to support a transformative leadership program that equips senior executives with the strategic insight, innovation mindset, and leadership capabilities required to guide their institutions toward long-term success, KIBS added.

Kafa'a Executive Leadership Program is structured in two integrated phases, combining academic depth with practical application. The first phase titled "Leading and Managing Self, Others, and Organizations," will be delivered by Cambridge Judge Business School Executive Education at locations around the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom from 9-14 November 2026. The second phase titled " Strategic Leadership in the Financial Sector," will be delivered in London- UK by Cornell University from 4-9 January 2027.

The University of Cambridge, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious institutions, is distinguished for its innovative approach to business education and research. Renowned for integrating academic rigor with practical application, Cambridge provides a vibrant and supportive environment conducive to the growth of aspiring leaders, equips them with the necessary skills to thrive in an ever-evolving global landscape.

Cornell University is a global leader in custom Executive Education providing in-person, virtual and experiential learning for more than 500 organizations worldwide. Crafted by world-renowned faculty, Cornell's programs are designed to meet the evolving needs of business. Participants are guided through a step-by-step process from idea to execution for a custom learning experience that tackles complex business challenges and drive meaningful change within their organizations and communities.

In conclusion, KIBS reaffirms that Kafa'a Executive Leadership Program aligns with the CBK's broader vision to build a robust, future-oriented financial sector led by capable national talent.

Participation reflects bank's commitment to key industry events

KFH reinforces financial leadership and showcases banking innovations at third edition of NEXUS 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: In line with its leadership in innovation and digital transformation, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the third edition of NEXUS 2026, one of Kuwait's leading technology and entrepreneurship exhibitions. Held under the patronage of the Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, Omar Al-Omar, as part of Kuwait's Youth and Sports Season, the event took place from November 26 to 28 at The Arena and Grand Hyatt Kuwait. It drew broad participation from local, regional, and international companies and organizations across the technology and entrepreneurship sectors.



KFH team at its exhibition booth during NEXUS 2026, one of Kuwait's leading technology and entrepreneurship exhibitions.

Commitment to Innovation & Entrepreneurship

KFH's participation in NEXUS 2026 reflects its strategic commitment to strengthening its financial leadership, expanding its digital footprint, and supporting Kuwait's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. It also underscores the bank's focus on leveraging technology to enhance services and drive economic growth in line with Kuwait's vision for a knowledge based, innovation driven economy.

This participation also highlights the bank's commitment to engaging in key events that bring together financial institutions, technology companies, entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers. It creates opportunities to exchange expertise, explore emerging technology trends, and foster partnerships that advance the financial sector and the broader innovation landscape in Kuwait.

Innovative Digital Solutions

At its interactive booth, KFH showcased a range of innovative digital banking solutions that demonstrate its successful use of advanced technologies to enhance customer experience and deliver faster, seamless, and personalized services through artificial intelligence and digital transformation.

KFH shed light on its latest AI innovations, led by the AI powered virtual assistants Fahad and Reem, which mark a turning point in the bank's digital transformation journey. These solutions support a more interactive and efficient banking experience while improving response times and service quality.

KFH team also presented the AI Voice Analytics solution, which leverages artificial intelligence to analyze contact center calls and generate insights that help continuously improve service delivery.

KFH further showcased its WhatsApp Banking service, the first of its kind in Kuwait, enabling customers to access a wide range of banking services around the clock through WhatsApp. The service enhances accessibility and provides a more flexible and seamless banking experience.

As part of its efforts to advance its digital financing solutions, KFH highlighted its Digital Personal Finance platform, which offers a fully digital financing journey, from calculating installments and submitting applications electronically to receiving the funds. This approach streamlines procedures while enhancing processing speed and customer satisfaction.

KFH also highlighted how it leverages the regional and international capabilities of the KFH Group to deliver a seamless banking experience across the markets in which the Group operates. This includes enabling customers to open accounts at KFH Group banks in Egypt, Turkey, and Germany through the Group's Service Centers in Kuwait.

The Bank also showcased Baiti Challenges, an interactive platform designed for children that promotes financial literacy and encourages positive financial habits by linking everyday achievements to financial rewards in an engaging and educational environment.

Moreover, the Bank highlighted KFH FinEdge, its business accelerator program that connects the Bank with startups and fintech companies to accelerate innovation and develop solutions that address evolving customer and business needs. The program leverages KFH's extensive banking expertise and capabilities, supported by a broad suite of mentorship, training, advisory, and business development services.

Visitors were also introduced to KFH Home, the Bank's digital platform designed to support customers throughout their home-building journey, from initial planning to project execution. The platform enables users to explore building material options, compare service providers and contractors, estimate project costs, and develop suitable budgets, helping them make informed decisions before commencing their residential projects.

Leading Platform for Innovation and Technology

NEXUS 2026 is recognized as one of Kuwait's premier technology and entrepreneurship events. Previous editions attracted more than 17,800 visitors, over 850 exhibitors and participants, approximately 350 distinguished guests and industry leaders, more than 2,100 conference attendees, and over 245 startups participating in the startup competition.

This year's edition featured a comprehensive three-day program, including a specialized exhibition bringing together leading technology and digital transformation companies from all over the world, as well as the Thrive Kuwait Conference, held under the theme "Food Security and Supply Chains".

KFH's participation in the NEXUS 2026 exhibition underscores its commitment to sustained investment in innovation and advanced digital technologies. It also reflects the Bank's dedication to developing smart banking solutions that elevate the customer experience, advance digital transformation, and reinforce Kuwait's position as a regional hub for innovation and technology.

Dialogue examines Kuwait's investment outlook & future

American Business Council Kuwait & CFA Society Kuwait convene financial leaders



A high-level executive panel discussion on Kuwait's financial outlook, moderated by Ms. Aminah Abotalaf (CFA Society Kuwait), featuring Mr. Ali H. Khalil (MARKAZ), Mr. Anas A. Faraj (Franklin Templeton), Dr. Azhar Iqbal Hussain (World Bank Group Kuwait), and Mr. Fawaz Bader Boresli (Capital Markets Authority).

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: As Kuwait advances its economic diversification agenda and seeks to strengthen its position within global financial markets, the American Business Council Kuwait (AmCham Kuwait) and CFA Society Kuwait, in collaboration with their Strategic Partners, the Union of Investment Companies (UIC), the World Bank Group, and the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC), convened senior financial, investment, and regulatory leaders for the Executive Financial Dialogue.

Held at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya under the theme "Kuwait's Financial Outlook: Financial Resilience, Investment & Growth Opportunities," the dialogue addressed one of the country's most consequential economic questions: how can Kuwait leverage its financial strengths, mobilize domestic and international capital, and translate its long-term economic ambitions into sustainable investment and growth?

Against the backdrop of Kuwait Vision 2035 and an increasingly competitive global investment landscape, the gathering provided a platform for industry leaders, policymakers, and institutional investors to examine the reforms, market conditions, and financing mechanisms needed to strengthen Kuwait's economic resilience and international competitiveness.

The discussion also recognized Kuwait's achievements to date in attracting significant domestic and international investment, including the important role of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) in promoting the country as an investment destination and supporting efforts to strengthen the business and investment environment.

The opening session featured remarks by Mr. Ahmad Bastaki, Chair of AmCham Kuwait's Banking & Finance Focus Group, alongside contributions from representatives of the event's partner institutions.

The executive panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Aminah Abotalaf, CFA, Executive Director of CFA Society Kuwait, and featured four distinguished industry leaders: Mr. Ali H. Khalil, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Financial Centre (MARKAZ); Mr. Anais A. Faraj, Director, Institutional Client Relations, Middle East & Africa, Franklin Templeton Investments; Dr. Azhar Iqbal Hussain, Country Manager, World Bank Group Kuwait; and Mr. Fawaz Bader Boresli, Head of the Markets Sector, Capital Markets Authority, Kuwait.

Drawing on domestic investment expertise, international asset management, development finance, and regulatory perspectives, the panel examined Kuwait's competitive positioning, the structural reforms needed to attract private and foreign capital, and the evolving expectations of institutional investors.

Discussions explored sectors presenting significant investment potential, the conditions required to make infrastructure and public-private partnership projects attractive to international investors, and the importance of regulatory predictability, market transparency, effective governance, and investor protection in building long-term confidence.

A central theme emerging from the dialogue was that Kuwait's financial strengths and investment potential must be matched by effective implementation, accessible financing structures, and clear pathways for private-sector participation. Mobilizing domestic and international capital will require continued efforts to strengthen market infrastructure, advance institutional capacity, and create the conditions for investment to translate into measurable economic progress.

The discussion further underscored the importance of connecting Kuwait Vision 2035 with actionable investment priorities, positioning the financial sector as a key enabler of economic diversification, infrastructure development, and greater integration into regional and global capital markets.

Dr. Arezou Harraf, Chair of the Board of AmCham Kuwait, delivered the closing remarks, emphasizing the importance of continued collaboration across the financial and investment ecosystem in advancing Kuwait's economic priorities.

The Executive Financial Dialogue was supported by Arkan Legal Consultants and Kuwait Financial Centre (MARKAZ) as Platinum Sponsors, with Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya serving as Hotel Partner.

In appreciation of their contributions to the dialogue, recognition plaques were presented to the event's Platinum Sponsors, Arkan Legal Consultants and Kuwait Financial Centre (MARKAZ); the attending Strategic Partners, the Union of Investment Companies (UIC) and the World Bank Group; and the Hotel Partner, Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya. CFA Society Kuwait was also recognized for its valued partnership as Co-Organizer, while Mr. Ahmad Bastaki received recognition for his valuable contributions and dedication as Chair of AmCham Kuwait's Banking & Finance Focus Group.

Through its continued engagement with financial institutions, regulators, investors, and the private sector, AmCham Kuwait remains committed to advancing constructive policy dialogue, strengthening U.S.–Kuwait business relations, and fostering an investment environment that supports sustainable growth and long-term economic opportunity.

About ABCK-AmCham Kuwait: About AmCham Kuwait: Founded in 1985, AmCham Kuwait is a non-profit organization composed of Fortune 500 corporations, SMEs, and prominent business leaders from both the United States and Kuwait. As a key advocate for American business interests in Kuwait, AmCham Kuwait works to strengthen the commercial and economic ties between the two nations. For more information, please visit www.amchamkuwait.org or follow us on social media at @abck1985.

Al-Moued urges stronger energy cooperation

Kuwait stresses energy security and market stability at China conference

BEIJING, Nov 26, (KUNA): Kuwait stressed the importance of strengthening energy security and global market stability during the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Energy under the Belt and Road Initiative, held in Qingdao, China's Shandong Province, from November 25 to 27.

The main meetings took place on November 25 and 26, bringing together ministers, senior officials and representatives of member states of the Belt and Road Energy Partnership, as well as international organizations and energy institutions.

Kuwait's Embassy in China said Thursday that Deputy Head of Mission at the embassy Counselor Faisal Ahmad Al-Moued, represented Kuwait and delivered the country's address.

Al-Moued stressed the importance of international cooperation and coordination between energy-producing and consuming countries to ensure secure supplies and stable global markets.

He noted that the global energy sector was undergoing rapid changes amid geopolitical, economic and technological challenges, requiring stronger international dialogue and cooperation to balance economic development needs with environmental sustainability.

He affirmed Kuwait's continued role as an oil producer and exporter, highlighting its commitment to energy market stability and meeting global demand in a manner that serves the shared interests of producers and consumers.

He also highlighted Kuwait's efforts to diversify energy sources, develop infrastructure and adopt modern technologies under its New Kuwait 2035 development vision, aimed at building a more diversified and sustainable economy.

China, he said, is an important economic and trade partner for Kuwait, with energy representing a key area of bilateral cooperation.

He emphasized the importance of leveraging Belt and Road Initiative opportunities to promote investment, develop infrastructure and transfer technology in areas of mutual interest.

Al-Moued also called for expanding international energy cooperation to cover renewable energy, improved efficiency and low-emission technologies, alongside conventional energy sources.

He stressed the need to take into account countries' economic and development circumstances and their right to choose appropriate pathways to achieve energy security and development goals.

He concluded by commending China's efforts to promote international dialogue and partnerships in the energy sector, expressing Kuwait's interest in further strengthening bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit and sustainable development.

Meanwhile, China's National Energy Administration Chairman Wang Hongzhi chaired the first Board of Directors meeting of the Belt and Road Energy Partnership on November 25 and the second ministerial meeting on November 26.

The meetings, attended by energy ministers and representatives of member states, discussed ways to strengthen international cooperation, improve coordination mechanisms and address energy security challenges while advancing the transition to more sustainable sources.

The conference also issued a joint ministerial statement reaffirming the importance of global energy security and stable supplies and markets.

It called for expanded cooperation in clean and renewable energy, electricity interconnection, modern technologies and sustainable financing to support development and strengthen international energy partnerships.

Kuwait is a member of the Belt and Road Energy Partnership, providing a framework for strengthening cooperation with China and other member states, exchanging expertise, transferring technology, attracting investment and developing conventional and renewable energy projects in support of energy security and New Kuwait 2035.

Investment to create 1,000 jobs

Chinese firm starts Egypt polyester project

CAIRO, Nov. 26, (Xinhua): China's Xin Feng Ming Group broke ground Wednesday on the first phase of a major polyester fiber production project in Egypt's China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone, according to a statement issued by the Egyptian government.

The project will be developed in three phases, the statement said. The first phase involves an investment of 280 million U.S. dollars and covers an area of 240,000 square meters. It will include a polyester fiber plant with an annual production capacity of 360,000 metric tons and is expected to create more than 1,000 direct jobs.

The project is expected to help Egypt strengthen local manufacturing, expand exports and access new markets, according to the statement.

Ahmed Gamal, vice chairman of the General Authority of the Suez Canal Economic Zone for the Southern Sector, said the project would bolster the zone's textile and chemical industries by supplying raw materials to related sectors, particularly spinning, weaving and dyeing, and help strengthen the polyester industry value chain in Egypt and across Africa.

Gamal added that the project would introduce advanced production technologies and facilitate the transfer of technical expertise, helping enhance local industrial capabilities and the competitiveness of Egyptian-made products.

Xin Feng Ming Group Chairman Zhuang Yaozhong said Egypt's favorable geographic location, strong industrial base and abundant human resources made the establishment of a new industrial complex in the country a strategic step in the group's global expansion.

SMMT warns UK risks losing auto investment

LONDON, Nov. 26, (Xinhua): Britain risks losing automotive investment as it faces a triple challenge -- unsustainable targets for electric vehicle (EV) adoption, looming European Union (EU) trade barriers and high industrial costs, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) warned.

The cost of meeting unrealistic EV targets is diverting resources from investment in the UK's automotive future, the SMMT said. It noted that manufacturers had spent more than 10 billion pounds (about 13 billion U.S. dollars) on discounts in 2024 and 2025 alone to stimulate demand for electric vehicles.

However, the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate, which requires all new cars and vans to be zero-emission by 2035, continues to outpace consumer demand. This is exacerbating depreciation, putting downward pressure on used-vehicle values and increasing consumer financing costs.

The SMMT also called for safeguarding access to the EU, the UK automotive industry's largest export market, as looming trade barriers threaten deeply integrated supply chains.

It said efforts should be made to protect competitiveness and investment on both sides of the Channel, including securing equal treatment for UK vehicles, parts and batteries under "Made in Europe" proposals and establishing pragmatic rules of origin to ensure tariff-free EV trade from the beginning of 2027.

Move escalates tensions

Iraq Kurds protest Baghdad takeover of oil operations

IRBIL, Iraq, Nov 26, (AP): Thousands of demonstrators gathered Thursday in Irbil, the capital of Iraq's semiautonomous northern Kurdish region, protesting a move by the federal government to take control of oil operations and border crossings previously run by Kurdish authorities.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi announced the measures Tuesday, describing them as steps to address oil smuggling.

The decision marked a new escalation in a long-running power struggle between the central government and Kurdish authorities and spurred rival Kurdish parties to come together in opposition to Baghdad.

Al-Zaidi - who took office earlier this year with the backing of U.S. President Donald Trump - has been trying to assert authority on several fronts, including sending security forces into an area long controlled by a powerful Iran-backed militia last week.

Tuesday's decision brings official and unofficial border crossings in the Kurdish region under federal government management. It places approval for oil exports from the region under the authority of the federal oil ministry and transfers the management of oil fields in Diyala, Kirkuk, Salahuddin and Nineveh provinces to it.

Al-Zaidi also dismissed Kirkuk's operations commander and police chief and the head of the Border Ports Commission. He said the measures reflect Iraq's "independent national will."

Iraq's Federal Supreme Court on Wednesday backed Baghdad's move and ruled that federal authorities may deploy troops to secure all of Iraq's international borders, "including the borders located within the territories administered by the Kurdistan Region."

Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Yahya Rasool said Wednesday evening that al-Zaidi, who is also commander in chief, had ordered the deployment of military units to Kirkuk and other provinces and had ordered dirt roads used for oil smuggling to be blocked.

Iraq's Kurds have governed themselves since 1991, and the 2005 constitution recognized the Kurdish region and its government. But since 2003, Irbil and Baghdad have struggled for control over land, oil and money.

The Kurdish regional government's cabinet said Wednesday that al-Zaidi's order "violates both the Constitution and the constitutional rights of the Kurdistan Region" and represents "an attempt to return Iraq to a centralized regime." It accused Baghdad of using "military rhetoric and threats" to carry out a "premeditated, long-standing plan directed against the constitutional structure of the Kurdistan Region."

The Federal Supreme Court said the Kurdish regional government's authority covers only the land it administered on March 19, 2003, the day before the U.S.-led invasion that unseated Saddam Hussein. Kurdish peshmerga forces moved into many disputed areas after 2003, including the oil fields covered by this week's orders.

The Iraqi constitution's Article 140 was meant to settle the fate of the disputed territories, a band of land from the Syrian to the Iranian border that is home to Kurds, Arabs, Yazidis, Assyrians, Turkmen and other communities.

The article called for reversing Saddam-era policies that expelled Kurds from the area and moved Arabs in. It also called for a census and a referendum by the end of 2007 on whether the areas would join the Kurdistan Region. Neither was held.

Peshmerga forces took control of oil-rich Kirkuk in 2014, when the Iraqi army collapsed in the face of an offensive by Islamic State militants. Iraqi forces pushed them out in October 2017, weeks after the Kurdish region held an independence referendum that Baghdad called unconstitutional.

The disputes between Baghdad and Irbil have largely centered around oil exports and revenues. The country relies on oil revenues for about 90% of its budget.

In 2014, Baghdad suspended federal budget transfers to the Kurdish region amid a dispute over oil exports. Disagreements over oil revenues and budget allocations have since repeatedly delayed salary payments for public employees in the region.

In 2022, Iraq's Federal Supreme Court ruled the Kurdish region's oil and gas law unconstitutional. The following year, oil exports through Turkey were suspended after an international arbitration ruling found Turkey had violated its pipeline agreement with Iraq by allowing independent Kurdish oil exports. Exports resumed in 2025 under an agreement placing sales under federal government oversight.

The Kurdish region's own politics are also in turmoil.

On Nov. 5, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan quit the government led by the Kurdistan Democratic Party, calling it "failed" and threatening to form a parallel administration.

No new cabinet has been formed since October 2024 regional elections, and the legality of the current government is being challenged at the Federal Supreme Court.

China and other US trading partners hit back at Trump's new tariff plans

'New tariffs not as alarming as they look'

HONG KONG, Nov 26, (AP): China, Japan and other U.S. trading partners protested planned tariff hikes by the Trump administration and hit back Thursday at allegations they have excess manufacturing capacity.

The new tariffs, which are likely to take effect early next year, were announced Wednesday. They are intended to help reinstate tariffs for most of the economies after the Supreme Court ruling in February struck down most of U.S. President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs implemented last year.

The new import duties followed a monthslong Section 301 probe. U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said he determined that practices of the 14 economies relating to excess capacity and production in manufacturing are "unreasonable and burden or restrict U.S. commerce."

China, one of the biggest trading partners of the U.S., is facing a 20% tariff. It slammed the notion of "overcapacity" as a "false premise." The tariffs could double to 40% if the U.S. finds China not engaging adequately.

"China opposes its use as a pretext for political maneuvering," Guo Jiakun, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at a regular press briefing. "Tariff wars and trade wars serve no one's interests."

Beijing will take "necessary measures to defend its legitimate rights and interests," he added.

The U.S. and China have extended by two months a trade truce that's set to expire on Jan. 10, 2027. The two countries also have agreed on tariff cuts on reciprocal lists of non-sensitive products worth about $60 billion in total.



Workers arrange steel pipes for export in a stockyard in Yantai in eastern China's Shandong province, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026. (AP)

Japan faces new U.S. tariffs of up to 15%. The Japanese government said it protested to Washington.

"Japan does not have any nonmarket policies or practices, or structural excess production capacity in the first place," Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara told a regular news conference Thursday.

"It is regrettable that the United States announced the proposed measures targeting Japan, and we have conveyed our position to the U.S. side."

Singapore, due to be hit by an up to 20% tariff rate, said it was "very disappointed" with the U.S. proposal.

"Singapore's economic policies do not protect our domestic market or subsidize manufacturing for export," its Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry said in a statement.

Malaysia said it "does not have excess capacity in its manufacturing sectors that distorts or disrupts global markets," adding that it will continue to engage and consult with the United States. Vietnam, facing tariffs of up to 35%, said it's working with the U.S. on a trade deal.

Analysts say the 14 economies targeted by the Trump administration together account for roughly half of the global economy.

The latest U.S. tariffs are not as alarming as they look, said Stephen Brown, a chief economist with Capital Economics, as they are essentially broadly replacing, rather than adding to, earlier announced U.S. tariffs related to forced labor allegations announced in July.

Still, the new tariffs will likely help push prices higher and may "keep core goods inflation firm into next year," he said in a commentary.

In Thailand, government spokesperson Lalida Persvivatana said Thursday that the latest U.S. proposal, capping tariffs at 18%, was more favorable than expected.

"The government will continue to pursue negotiations to secure competitive tariff levels and additional exemptions for Thai products, with the main goal of protecting Thailand's export markets," Persvivatana added.

The 27-nation European Union, which could be hit by a potential 15% tariff rate by the U.S., rejected "the premise that Europe is a source of structural overcapacity" and pointed to the lack of joint action by the EU and the U.S.

Meeks criticizes proposed deal

US-led consortium agrees to acquire assets from Lukoil

WASHINGTON, Nov 26, (AP): A consortium of investors that includes a U.S. government lender said that it has agreed to acquire the international energy assets of Russian oil company Lukoil.

The consortium, led by U.S.-based asset management company Eldridge, includes the U.S. International Development Finance Corp., a government lender, as well as Catena Investment Holding, a company based in the United Arab Emirates, and New York-based investment bank Xtellus Capital Partners.

The Russian company said at the beginning of the year that it planned to sell its international assets to an American private equity firm. At the time, Lukoil was looking to divest from its global portfolio in the face of looming U.S. sanctions.

Under the terms of the agreement, the consortium would acquire Lukoil International, which owns non-Russian energy assets, including oil and gas fields, refineries, pipelines and other infrastructure, across 11 countries. Its operations currently produce about 350,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, the consortium said in a release.

The consortium would exchange restricted Russian shares of Lukoil and other Russian companies for all of Lukoil International's liquidity, according to the terms of the proposed deal. This would avoid having the U.S.-led consortium make direct cash payments to Russia in exchange for the assets.



A view of facilities of the Petrotel-Lukoil refinery seen from a road outside Ploiesti, Romania, Jan. 30, 2026. (AP)

The International Development Finance Corp. would receive an ownership interest on behalf of the U.S. A DFC official positioned the agency's involvement in the deal as a way to protect U.S. interests and reduce the risk of rivals getting involved. The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, called Lukoil's assets important to U.S. and allies' energy security.

U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks, a Democrat and ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, criticized the proposed deal, saying the Trump administration was circumventing a congressional ban on the DFC investing in Russia, which was aimed at pressuring Moscow to end its war in Ukraine.

The "DFC exists to advance development in emerging markets, not serve as a finance vehicle for President Trump's wealthy and well-connected friends," he said.

President Donald Trump has taken a series of steps in recent months to ease up on Moscow, including agreeing to purchase Russian diesel to try to bring down global energy prices, meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin and calling him a friend, and abruptly waiving new sanctions on Russia days before they were to take effect.

The diesel deal met with bipartisan opposition in Congress, where lawmakers argued that any Russian shipments would volate a 2022 ban on energy imports from Russia.

Although the Treasury Department temporarily authorized Russian diesel transactions that would ordinarily be subject to U.S. sanctions, two tankers originally bound for the U.S. changed course after state and federal officials warned port authorities, fuel distributors and banks that facilitating any shipments could bring legal consequences.

Early this year, Lukoil was pursuing the sale of its international assets to the U.S. Carlyle Group. The Treasury Department had given the company until Feb. 28 to sell its foreign assets. Trump announced sanctions on Lukoil and Rosneft, Russia's two biggest oil companies, in October 2025 to push for a ceasefire in Russia's war on Ukraine.

In September, Trump personally signed legislation aimed at renewing pressure on the Russian economy and disrupting the financial resources fueling the war against Ukraine. But he then signed an executive order last month pausing the sweeping new sanctions package two days before an implementation deadline.

Ships reroute amid instability

Global maritime trade set to stagnate in 2026

GENEVA, Nov 26, (KUNA): Global maritime trade is expected to record zero growth in 2026 before recovering by 3.2 percent in 2027, the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said Thursday, amid disruptions to major shipping routes, regional conflicts and trade uncertainty.

In its Review of Maritime Transport 2026, UNCTAD said trade grew by 1.9 percent in 2025 and 3.9 percent in 2024.

The report said disruptions had forced vessels onto longer routes, increasing transit times, fuel costs and port congestion.

Containerized trade is projected to grow by 3.3 percent in 2026, while maritime transport demand, measured in ton-miles, is expected to rise by 1.5 percent.

Conflict in the Middle East has severely curtailed traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, which handles around one-fifth of global oil supplies. Traffic through the strait fell by approximately 95 percent by early March, compared with around 120 daily crossings before the disruption.

Meanwhile, Red Sea instability has kept many vessels on the longer route around the Cape of Good Hope, while Black Sea grain shipments remain exposed to security risks.

These disruptions have affected oil, gas, food, fertilizer and industrial shipments, raising transport and production costs and threatening essential imports, particularly in countries dependent on imported food and energy.

Container spot rates more than doubled between January and August 2026, while tanker rates reached record highs on some routes.

UNCTAD estimated that a sustained 70-80 percent rise in maritime fuel costs would increase consumer prices by 0.19 percent globally and 0.35 percent in least developed countries.

The report called for stronger preparedness, investment in resilient ports and transport networks, alternative shipping routes, cleaner fleets and digital technologies.

It also stressed the need for affordable financing, technology and skilled workers to help developing countries adopt sustainable shipping practices without undermining trade competitiveness.

Move to boost business ties

China welcomes EU removal of firm from sanctions list

BEIJING, Nov. 26, (Xinhua): China welcomed the European Union (EU)'s decision to remove a Chinese company from its Russia-related export control list, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday.

The spokesperson made the remarks in response to a media question concerning the EU's announcement earlier in the day that it had removed Yusha Group Co., Ltd. from the list.

The lifting of sanctions on the Chinese company will help create a favorable environment for normal cooperation between enterprises of the two sides, the spokesperson said, expressing hope that the EU will remove more Chinese companies from its sanctions list.

China has recently received written applications from relevant EU enterprises seeking removal from China's export control list, and is currently assessing these applications and carrying out review procedures, the spokesperson added.

De Cos to replace Lagarde

EU leaders name Hernández as next ECB president

BRUSSELS, Nov 26, (AP): European leaders have chosen the former head of Spain's central bank, Pablo Hernández de Cos, to succeed Christine Lagarde as president of the European Central Bank as the key EU institution confronts inflation driven by the war in Iran and worries about high government debt and borrowing costs in Europe.

Leaders from the 21 European member countries that use the euro also filled two other top posts at the ECB, which decides borrowing costs for the 359 million people in the eurozone.

Agreement on the three posts was reached at a summit in Brussels, said an EU diplomat tasked with communicating for the Irish Presidency and speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to be named. French President Emmanuel Macron confirmed the result on X.

De Cos' nomination still must pass review by the European Parliament and the ECB's governing council, but those steps are formalities.

The appointment puts an experienced central banker with a reputation for backing lower interest rates and monetary stimulus in charge at a time when several European governments are struggling with heavy debt loads and rising borrowing costs. De Cos, 55, served on the ECB rate-setting council from 2018 to 2024 through his post as head of the Spanish central bank.

A review of his speeches by Commerzbank analysts "suggests that de Cos is among the monetary policy doves," or policymakers who lean toward lower rates to support growth.

De Cos won out over another main contender for the post, former Netherlands central bank head Klaas Knot, who was regarded as a hawk, or someone who favors higher rates to ward off inflation.

In 2020, De Cos joined the council majority under Lagarde in backing 1.85 trillion euros ($2 trillion) in pandemic stimulus to keep rates low and support the economy during widespread closures and travel restrictions. De Cos praised the massive pandemic stimulus in a speech that year, saying it "has been clearly successful in curbing financial market deterioration in all euro area countries" as well as lowering borrowing costs for eurozone governments and corporations.



Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, right, and the former Governor of the Bank of Spain, Pablo Hernandez de Cos pose for a photo before a meeting at the Spain's Central Bank in Madrid, Spain, June 29, 2023. (AP)

Commerzbank analyst Marco Wagner said that "especially against the backdrop of rising government debt in numerous countries ... many governments are likely to prefer a dovish ECB president." France in particular is struggling with high debt and burdensome interest costs. However, with inflation at 4%, above the bank's target of 2%, the bank could still raise rates at its Dec. 17 meeting presided over by Lagarde.

In some circumstances the ECB can intervene to lower borrowing costs for governments hit by market turmoil it views as unjustified, but analysts say the central bank is unlikely to bail out French politicians who can't agree on how to reduce their deficit.

De Cos is currently general manager of the Bank for International Settlements, an international organization of central banks in Basel, Switzerland.

Lagarde, 70, said Oct. 30 that she would resign on Feb. 7, nine months before the end of her eight-year term. She has said she decided to resign early to be able to speak more freely about matters not related to monetary policy, but her resignation also enables EU leaders to choose a successor while pro-EU French President Emmanuel Macron is still in office and guards against the possibility that right-wing presidential candidate Marine Le Pen might win the election and influence the choice.

Young learners showcase talents

Capital Education Area celebrates World Children's Day with 17 kindergartens

By Tasneem A. Al-Muhanna

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: In celebration of childhood and in recognition of the vital role of early education in shaping future generations, the General Administration of the Capital Education Area, represented by the Public Relations and Educational Media Department, organized its second annual World Children's Day celebration on Wednesday, in collaboration with the Kindergarten Educational Affairs Directorate, with the participation of 17 kindergartens from across the educational district.

Held at the Capital Education Area, the event brought together educational leaders, kindergarten administrators, educators and young students in an atmosphere of joy, creativity and collaboration, highlighting the importance of providing children with a safe, supportive and stimulating environment in which they can develop their abilities and discover their potential.

The initiative reflects the Capital Education Area's continued commitment to enriching the educational experiences of young learners and promoting activities that contribute to their personal, social and emotional development.

Speaking on the occasion, Mashael Al-Hadad, Head of the Public Relations and Educational Media Department at the Capital Education Area, expressed her delight at organizing the celebration for the second consecutive year, emphasizing the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for children to showcase their talents and actively participate in educational and community initiatives.

"This celebration provides an opportunity to share in our children's joy and witness their talents and creativity through a variety of performances and activities," Al-Hadad said.

"We were keen to ensure their active involvement, as participating in front of an audience strengthens their self-confidence, encourages self-expression and promotes cooperation with their peers."

The celebration commenced with a salute to the Kuwaiti flag, presented by children from Al-Lulu Kindergarten, reflecting the importance of instilling national identity, patriotism and a sense of belonging from an early age.









Some photos from the event.

The opening ceremony continued with welcoming performances by children from Al-Maqdisi and Al-Rayahin kindergartens, followed by an additional performance by Al-Lulu Kindergarten. The young participants brought an atmosphere of enthusiasm and joy to the occasion, demonstrating their creativity and abilities through their contributions.

Beyond celebrating children's talents, the event highlighted the fundamental role of kindergarten education in laying the foundations for lifelong learning and personal development.

Al-Hadad emphasized that the early years of a child's life represent a particularly important stage in shaping personality, developing essential skills and establishing positive values.

"Kindergarten education plays a fundamental role in shaping a child's personality. During this important stage, we instill a love of learning and positive values while providing a safe environment in which children can learn, play and explore," she explained.

"Every child possesses abilities and talents, and our responsibility is to discover and nurture them in partnership with families."

The celebration also featured an accompanying exhibition showcasing the creative contributions of the participating kindergartens. Educational leaders and guests were invited to tour the exhibition and explore the various displays, activities and children's creative works, which reflected the efforts of educators to encourage imagination, self-expression and discovery among young learners.

The exhibition provided an opportunity to highlight the significance of learning beyond the traditional classroom environment, recognizing the value of activities that encourage children to explore their interests, develop their abilities and build confidence in themselves.

As part of the event, a special recognition ceremony was held to honor the individuals, educational institutions and supporting departments whose collective efforts contributed to the success of the initiative.

Saadiya Saad, Acting Supervisor of Kindergarten Educational Affairs, was honored in appreciation of the directorate's cooperation and contribution to organizing the celebration.

The administrations of the 17 participating kindergartens were also recognized for their distinguished contributions and efforts in enriching the event. These included Al-Sayed Omar, Al-Mansour, Al-Doha, Al-Atyab, Al-Sahab, Al-Maqdisi, Ohud, Omar bin Abdulaziz, Al-Lulu, Al-Furat, Fahad Boursali, Al-Badr, Al-Asafeer, Al-Deem, Al-Surra, Al-Rayahin and Al-Tasamuh kindergartens.

Recognition was also extended to the Educational Technology Department and the General Services Department of the Capital Education Area in appreciation of their cooperation and organizational support.

Observed internationally on November 20 each year, World Children's Day serves as an important reminder of the need to safeguard children's rights, promote their well-being and ensure that their voices are heard.

Addressing the wider significance of the occasion, Al-Hadad stressed that supporting children's development extends beyond educational institutions and requires the collective involvement of families and society.

"World Children's Day reminds us that caring for children is a shared responsibility among families, kindergartens and society. We must listen to children, understand their needs and give them the space to express themselves, ensuring that they feel heard and valued," she said.

Al-Hadad concluded by extending her warmest wishes to children and their families, expressing her hopes that Kuwait's young generations would continue to excel, pursue their aspirations and contribute to the nation's future.

"May God protect our children for their families, and may we always see them excel, succeed, grow to fulfill their dreams and bring pride to our beloved Kuwait."

Through its second annual World Children's Day celebration, the Capital Education Area reaffirmed the importance of investing in early childhood education, strengthening partnerships between families and educational institutions, and fostering an environment in which every child is encouraged to learn, grow and thrive.

At the heart of the initiative lies the recognition that nurturing the talents, aspirations and potential of today's children is an investment in the future of Kuwait.



A photo from the event.

KTL promotes women's sports and community spirit

Keralite Engineers' Association (KEA) successfully hosted its much-awaited showcase event, KEA Throwball League (KTL) – Season 8, on Friday, 20 November 2026, at the Al Shabab Sports Club, Ahmadi. The event, which ran from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, brought together six teams representing six different clubs of the Kuwait Engineers' Forum (KEF) for a full day of competitive sport, camaraderie and celebration.

Uniquely positioned as the only throwball tournament exclusively organized for the ladies of the Kuwait Engineers' Forum, KTL marked an important milestone in encouraging women's participation in sports and strengthening bonds within the wider engineering community.

The league was the culmination of over a month of dedicated preparation, practice sessions and meticulous planning. The six participating teams – Kerala Tuskers, Kite N Sky Windjammers, Nova Queens, Titans TC, Venad Warriors and Yelliminators – brought enthusiasm, determination and competitive spirit to the court.

The tournament featured nine league matches, followed by two semi-finals, a third-place playoff and the much-anticipated final.

The first semi-final saw Kerala Tuskers take on Venad Warriors, with Kerala Tuskers winning in straight sets (15–7, 15–12) to secure their place in the final. The second semi-final between Yelliminators and Titans TC was a nail-biting three-set encounter. After dropping the opening set 13–15, Titans TC fought back hard to win the next two sets 15–13 and 15–13, earning their place in the championship showdown.

In the third-place playoff, played as a single 21-point set, Yelliminators defeated Venad Warriors 21–17 to secure third place.

The final between Kerala Tuskers and Titans TC proved to be another electrifying contest. With both teams displaying remarkable determination and skill, the match kept spectators on the edge of their seats, making it a fitting finale to an exciting day of throwball.

St. John's United FC wins KCC Kuwait Football Tournament

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: St. John's United FC emerged as the champions of the inaugural football tournament organized by the Youth Commission of the Kerala Council of Churches (KCC), Kuwait Region, for the year 2026.

In a thrilling final, St. John's United defeated St. Mary's Jacobite Church's MIA FC 3–2 in a penalty shootout to claim the Zacharias Mar Theophilos Memorial Trophy.

Runners-up SMJSC MIA FC were presented with the Geevarghese Mar Philoxenos Puthencavu, Catholicate Ratna Deepam Memorial Trophy.

The tournament was officially inaugurated by KCC Kuwait Regional President Rev. Dr. Biju Parayil. A total of 16 teams representing various churches competed in the tournament, providing an exciting sporting experience for both players and spectators.

The tournament was organized with the aim of encouraging the younger generation to reduce excessive screen time and become more actively involved in sports. It also sought to strengthen love, fellowship and unity among youth members from different churches.

Youth Commission members George Jacob, Biji Samuel, Shijo Pullampallil, Ajosh Mathew and Sibu Alex led the coordination and arrangements, ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the tournament.



A photo from the event.

59.37 million steps recorded in 30-day Walkathon challenge

TEF Championix unites Tamil Nadu engineers, families in Kuwait through sports

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The Tamil Nadu Engineers Forum (TEF), Kuwait, organised its much-awaited annual Sports Day, TEF Championix 2026, on November 20 at Salmiya sports club, bringing together members and their families for a vibrant celebration of fitness, teamwork, sporting excellence and community spirit.

The day commenced with the registration of participants and attendees, followed by breakfast, providing an opportunity for members and families to connect and gear up for the day's celebrations. Specially designed TEF Championix T-shirts were distributed to attendees, adding to the sense of belonging and team spirit.

Following breakfast, the sporting celebrations began with a spectacular March-Past led by TEF Committee members, followed by the four enthusiastic houses – Blue, Green, Yellow and Red, represented in different Championix T-shirts.

The March Past was followed by the ceremonial Olympic Torch Relay, with TEF Committee members carrying the torch across the field before the grand lighting ceremony. Symbolising passion, perseverance, courage and the pursuit of excellence, the Olympic flame marked the beginning of an exciting day of sporting celebrations.





Some photos from the event.

A significant moment of the opening ceremony was the TEF Championix Oath, administered by Sports In-charge Mr. Elanchelvam. Participants pledged to uphold fair play, integrity, discipline and respect for fellow competitors, reinforcing the true values of sportsmanship.

The inaugural programme also featured an address by Sports In-charge Mr. Elanchelvam, followed by a special jump-rope performance by Master Jevin Vinoth, which added an entertaining touch to the morning programme and received enthusiastic appreciation from the audience.

TEF Championix 2026 was a culmination of two months of sporting activities, featuring multiple sports events that brought members and families together in a spirit of healthy competition and camaraderie. The grand finale on November 20th 2026 featured exciting track events for men, women, girls and boys, organised across different age categories. The field came alive with enthusiastic participation, cheering and encouragement as competitors showcased their athletic abilities and sporting spirit.

The event also provided a platform to recognise accomplishments beyond sports through the Extra-Curricular Achievers Awards, celebrating the diverse talents and achievements of TEF members and their families.

Another highlight was the recognition of TEF Walkathon 2026, a 30-day fitness initiative that collectively recorded an impressive 59.37 million steps, reflecting the community's commitment to fitness and healthier living.

The celebrations culminated in the prize distribution ceremony, recognising winners across the various sporting events and Walkathon categories. TEF- Kuwait's President Mr. Rajendrakannan and Committee members, felicitated the achievers and applauded the efforts of all participants.

TEF Championix 2026 was much more than a Sports Day. It was a celebration of fitness, friendship, inclusion and the strength of a community coming together. The successful event was made possible through the collective efforts of the TEF leadership, Sports Committee, organising team, volunteers, event coordinators, sponsors and enthusiastic participants.

With the resounding spirit of "Four Houses, One TEF Family!", Championix 2026 concluded on a high note, leaving behind cherished memories, stronger connections and renewed enthusiasm for an active and united TEF community.

Fahaheel sends Qadsia crashing out of Amir Cup

Nida quits Yellow Castle after defeat

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Qadsia team manager Nida has stepped down following the club's 3-2 defeat to Fahaheel at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium, which sent the Yellow Castle out of the Amir Cup at the quarterfinal stage of the competition carried over from last season.

Announcing his departure, Nida expressed regret at leaving his post, saying he had worked hard throughout his tenure and remained committed to serving the team.

In a message to the players, the former international said he was proud of their achievements in recent seasons, particularly reaching the final and semifinals of the Gulf Champions League in the last two editions and winning the Super Cup. He urged them to preserve their unity, maintain their fighting spirit and continue working hard to deliver better results.

The defeat sparked anger among Qadsia supporters, who directed sharp criticism at the club's management and head coach Mohammed Ibrahim. Some fans called on the coaching staff to resign, while others went further, demanding that the club's board step down.



Carlos celebrates scoring the second goal against Qadsia.

Expectations had risen after Qadsia advanced to the quarterfinals of the AFC Challenge League with a flawless nine-point record in the group stage. However, their inconsistent league form proved disappointing, particularly after consecutive defeats to Kuwait Club (1-0) and archrivals Al-Arabi (3-0). The setbacks allowed defending champions and league leaders Kuwait Club to open a four-point gap at the top.

Against Fahaheel, Qadsia was also hampered by the absence of Moroccan striker Hamza Khabba, their leading scorer. Head coach Mohammed Ibrahim, nicknamed "The General," failed to find suitable alternatives or devise a way past Fahaheel's disciplined defensive setup.

Fahaheel will now face Kuwait Club in the semifinals on Dec 24.

The quarterfinal clash was an intense contest, with both teams determined to book their place in the last four. Fahaheel broke the deadlock through Vitor da Silva in the 36th minute, but Eid Al-Rashidi restored parity for Qadsia from the penalty spot in the 46th minute.

Fahaheel responded almost immediately, with Carlos putting them back in front in the 49th minute.

The winners strengthened their advantage through Fortes in the 71st minute, while Nasser Al-Rawahi reduced the deficit for Qadsia in the 82nd minute. However, the Yellow Castle could not find another equalizer.

Tourney to get underway on Dec 6

'Sports for All' launches registration for veterans' football tournament

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The Kuwait Sports for All Federation has opened registration for its veterans' football tournament, with entries accepted from Nov 25 through Dec 2 as part of the 2026-2027 sports season. The tournament will get underway on Dec 6 at the sports grounds in Surra.

Waleed Nassar, a former Kuwait national team player and chairman of the tournament's Technical Committee, said the competition is a sporting and community initiative designed to bring former athletes and football enthusiasts back to the pitch, combining competitive action with social interaction.

Nassar noted that participation is open without restrictions to a particular age category, commending the federation, led by Faisal Maqsid, for its efforts to expand sports participation and engage wider segments of society.



Waleed Nassar

Each team will comprise 12 players: seven outfield players, one goalkeeper and four substitutes. The regulations allow unlimited substitutions, including players returning to the field after being replaced.

The tournament will feature 24 teams divided into six groups. The top two teams in each group, along with the four best third-placed sides, will qualify for the Round of 16.

Each team may also register up to two professional players or players born in Kuwait, provided they are at least 45 years old. The required supporting documents must be submitted for approval by the organizing committee.

Registration is available online through the federation's official website. Applicants must provide a team roster, copies of players' Civil IDs through the "Hawiyti" app, Public Institution for Social Security certificates via the "Sahel" app, and two personal photographs for each player.

Al-Rufaidhi brothers maintain world-class form in jiu-jitsu

ABU DHABI, Nov 26: Kuwaiti brothers Obaid and Abdullah Al-Rufaidhi continued to make their mark on the international jiu-jitsu scene, delivering another outstanding performance at the World Professional Jiu-Jitsu Championship in Abu Dhabi and securing podium finishes for the second year running.

Obaid topped the competition to claim gold and successfully defend his world title for the second consecutive year, while Abdullah finished second to take silver, highlighting the brothers' growing stature among the sport's leading competitors.

Their latest success capped an impressive five-month run during which they combined for 43 consecutive victories at international and world championships across several countries. Abdullah suffered the only defeat during that period, while Obaid remained unbeaten throughout the remarkable streak.



Obaid Al-Rufaidhi receives the gold medal.

Iraola experiences first Merseyside derby

City's form unravels ahead of crunch clash with Arsenal



Arsenal's Piero Hincapie kicks the ball during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Arsenal and Borussia Dortmund in London. (AP)

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 26, (AP): After four games without a win in the Premier League, Enzo Maresca's start to life at Manchester City has taken a nosedive.

Hardly the ideal time to be facing defending champion Arsenal.

The stakes are high for Sunday's game at the Emirates as City try to stay within touching distance of first-placed Arsenal after seeing its form unravel in recent weeks.

The points difference is currently six. By the end of play it could be anything ranging from nine to three.

And given the way results have been going for City lately, the fear for Maresca's team is that their title hopes are dealt another blow in North London.

"We go to the champions, it's the most difficult game of the season," City striker Erling Haaland said. "We need a top performance from every single one of us. It's always good to play against the best teams."

City has already won away games against Manchester United and Liverpool this season, but performances have fallen off badly since Maresca - who succeeded Pep Guardiola in the summer - began his reign with an eight-game winning streak.

In all competitions, City has only won one of its last seven games in regulation time, with that run including a penalty shootout victory against Brighton in the English League Cup. It is third in the Premier League standings, behind Brighton.

A 2-2 draw against Napoli in the Champions League on Tuesday was the 10th game in a row that Maresca's team has failed to keep a clean sheet.

"I've no idea what we were missing, but you could feel in the last few games there is something that is not clicking and we have to find out what it is," Haaland told beIN Sports. "We have to stay positive and try to get the best out of every single player.

"All I want to do is perform for this club and win games for Man City. Right now we are not doing that and it hurts."



Manchester City's Erling Haaland reacts at the end of the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Manchester City and Napoli in Manchester, England. (AP)

Arsenal has lost just once in the league this season, but goes into the game after back-to-back draws against Newcastle and Borussia Dortmund.

Arsenal vs. City is the standout game of the round and could be a test of just how serious City's title credentials are.

Mauricio Pochettino takes charge of his first home game as Manchester United coach against Brentford on Saturday.

Liverpool coach Andoni Iraola will experience his first Merseyside derby when his team travels to Everton on Sunday.

Liverpool's attack just looks better and better. Alexander Isak and Florian Wirtz were on target again against Club Bruges in the Champions League. Isak is the second leading scorer in the Premier League with seven goals, two behind Haaland. Wirtz is joint second for assists, with four.

Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya sustained a left shoulder injury against Newcastle that kept him out of the game against Dortmund. It is unclear whether he will be available for Sunday.

Leny Yoro is available for United after having his red card against Liverpool last week overturned.

Kuwait Shooting Club wraps up first championship on Saturday

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The Kuwait Shooting Club's inaugural championship will conclude on, Saturday, featuring several competitors as part of the club's efforts to popularize shooting sports and attract more participants.

Kuwait Shooting Club Secretary-General Obaid Al-Osaimi has invited the chairmen and board members of sports clubs to attend the closing ceremony, which will be held at 3 pm at the club's headquarters.

The ceremony will feature the honoring of male and female winners, with cups and medals presented to the top finishers in recognition of their performances throughout the competition.

The club praised the cooperation and continued support of sports clubs, expressing hope that the championship will strengthen sporting ties and contribute to the development of shooting across Kuwaiti clubs.



Obaid Al-Osaimi

Avdija, Lillard lead Trail Blazers past Spurs

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov 26, (AP): Deni Avdija scored 33 points to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 116-111 win over the San Antonio Spurs in both teams' third NBA Cup matchup of the group stage.

Damian Lillard added 29 points for the Blazers (12-6) to go along with 16 from Sidy Cissoko. Jrue Holiday had 11 points off the bench while Scoot Henderson had 10.

Victor Wembanyama led all scorers with 44 points on 17 of 30 shooting for the Spurs (16-4), along with 16 rebounds and two blocks. Stephon Castle added 20 points, six rebounds and nine assists, while Devin Vassell had 18 points.

The win keeps the Blazers alive for a wild-card spot in the knockout round, where they're now 2-1 in group play with a +7 point differential. San Antonio leads their group with a differential of +48.

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Sports



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah poses with the athletes after the ceremony.

PM Diwan photos

Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah pledges support to propel Kuwait sports forward

PM honors top athletes for flying Kuwait's flag high



Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah talks to some of the honorees.



Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah welcomes the delegation at the Bayan Palace.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): Under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, a ceremony was held at Bayan Palace on Thursday to honor athletes who achieved distinguished results at the 20th Asian Games (Japan 2026), the 5th Asian Para Games (Aichi-Nagoya 2026), and the 4th Summer Youth Olympic Games (Dakar 2026).

Addressing the ceremony, His Highness the Prime Minister conveyed the greetings and congratulations of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to the top athletes on the honorable results they achieved, wishing them further accomplishments to raise their nation's flag high.

His Highness the Prime Minister underlined the state's keenness to fulfill the high-level directives to care for and nurture youth, who are considered the nation's true wealth, and to provide all capabilities and resources to develop the Kuwaiti sports movement so it may continue its longstanding journey and achieve desired results across various sporting arenas

He expressed his thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributed to achieving these accomplishments, including heads of sports federations, technical and administrative staff, players, and their families, affirming that individual sports, in which Kuwait has long achieved historic milestones, are no less important than team sports.

For his part, Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Prime Minister for honoring Kuwait's champions who achieved major accomplishments and raised Kuwait's name in international arenas, affirming that this recognition serves as a badge of honor for the athletes and a strong incentive to achieve further milestones.

His Highness the Prime Minister honored the male and female athletes, as well as the technical and administrative staff, who achieved distinguished results in the aforementioned 2026 championships from various Kuwaiti sports clubs, committees, and federations.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma, Acting Chief of the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sport Bashar Al-Salem, Vice President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and heads of participating Kuwaiti sports authorities, clubs, federations, and committees.



His Highness the Prime Minister with the Paralympics delegation.



Some of the officials who graced the occasion.



Some of the honored athletes.



Athletes listen attentively during the ceremony.

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